Gc
977.2
H62ic
no.69
1417702

M. L.

GENEALOGY COLLECTION

GEN

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 1833 02408 4680

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

https://archive.org/details/inventoryofcount6919hist

RIPLEY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Versailles, Ind.

(In the final publication an enlarged picture, 5 x 7, will appear here.)

INVENTORY OF THE COUNTY ARCHIVES

OF INDIANA

Prepared by

The Historical Records Survey
Division of Women's and Professional Projects
Works Progress Administration

NO. 69. RIPLEY COUNTY (VERSAILLES)

W.P.A.

*

Indianapolis, Indiana

The Historical Records Survey

November 1937

PREFACE

This inventory of Ripley County records constitutes a part of a general guide to the county archives of Indiana. It has been prepared by the Historical Records Survey of this state, operating as a separate project under the Works Progress Administration.

1417702

The survey of state and local historical records in Indiana was instituted on February 19, 1936, as part of a nation-wide undertaking under the supervision of Dr. Luther H. Evans. Samuel J. Kagan, state archivist of the Indiana History and Archives Division of the State Library was assigned to lead the project as State Director. In the beginning the Survey was closely associated with the Writers' Project. On September 23, 1936, the Historical Records Survey was nominally as well as factually made independent of the Writers' Project. In general, it has from its very inception acted as a separate and independent unit of Federal Project No. 1.

The aim and purpose of the survey of county records in Indiana have been to furnish the officials of the local, state, and national governments, students of history, lawyers, and genealogists, and the general citizeary interested in the county records, with a convenient tool for use in consulting them. It is the object of the Survey to make the valuable source materials that are to be found in the Indiana courthouses and other public buildings, available and more accessible to those who may be in

according to their functional purpose. A full and exhaustive index following the inventory will help the reader locate records with a minimum of inconvenience and effort.

The editing of this inventory has been conducted by an editorial staff of some forty men and women, whose labors we deeply appreciate and wish to recognize forthwith, captained by Harry A. Rider, editor; John K. Milligan in charge of accession and classifying; Louise Hation in charge of checking; Canis E. Brockway in charge of condensing; Julius Salman, legal adviser; and Howard C. Underwood, historical research editor.

The original survey was made in the field under the direction of the State Director and carefully checked and compiled in the form of this inventory in the State Office. Of the industrious and painstaking devotion to his task of each and every person who had a part in the Survey we are keenly aware, and we regret that we cannot commend by name the services of all who have contributed to the publication of this volume.

The Survey is indebted to county officials; to the State Works Progress Administration; to Kenneth E. Lancet, Acting Director of Women's and Professional Projects, who has rendered the Survey a great personal service in the administering of the project; and to Dr. Christopher B. Coleman, who has taken personal initiative and interest in behalf of the Survey in giving technical advice to the project.

S. J. Hagan, State Director

The Historical Records Survey

need of them. It is our hope that the information contained in this inventory will arouse greater interest in state and local historical records and will encourage officials to continue the improvement of methods for the preservation and safekeeping of these records.

The field work of the survey of Ripley County was begun on June 20, 1936, under the district supervision of Mrs. Carmon Whitcher, of New Albany, later succeeded by Elizabeth Howe. The field workers were Katherine Loftus of New Albany; Virgil Wiley, of Rushville; and Rachel Cochran and E. A. Graves, both of North Vernon. It was completed on July 15, 1936. Many visits, however, have since been made to the county courthouse to check and recheck the information contained herein, the final recheck having been made in September 1937.

There are ninety-two counties in Indiana. When the survey of county archives is completed a separate volume is to be devoted to each county inventory in the state. Ripley County is No. 69.

The inventory proper is preceded by a number of introductory sections to enlighten the reader concerning facts and events forming the background and basis of the records. The entries for the record series are carried in consecutive numbering for the county. The bureaus are arranged in functional order: Governing boards; major administrative offices; judicial offices; and financial, educational, health, engineering, and other groups. Wherever applicable, natural groupings under separate headings are made within the bureau, and the entries are arranged thereunder also

FOREWORD

A guide to county and township records in Indiana has long been needed by both local officials and the general public. The Works Progress Administration project called the Historical Records Survey is the first attempt to supply this need. Few more useful fields of employment could have been found than the survey of local and state historical records, even though the work inevitably presented unusual difficulties. The completion of the survey of historical records in Indiana is a source of genuine satisfaction,

We are indebted first of all to the Works Progress Administration for providing for the survey and financing it. The National Director of the project, Dr. Luther H. Evans, assured a fruitful product of the work by ably outlining it and drafting the forms to be used by the field workers so as to insure the greatest completeness with the least likelihood of errors. He and his assistants have done all that was possible for this nation-wide survey. Samuel J. Magan, State Director of Indiana, deserves great credit for his energy and ability in organizing the office and field forces which have carried out the project. To assemble and organize more than one hundred and fifty persons in a new line of work in which there were very few local precedents, and to complete a survey of the county records in all the ninety-two counties, including the townships, at first, seemed almost impossible of accomplishment within a year. It has, however, been accomplished.

An advisory committee has helped guide work upon the project; though no meetings were held, its members in many instances were a great help. A word of appreciation must be recorded here for the county officers who courteously gave the representatives of the survey access to the records in their offices and cooperated in the making of the survey. Especially is the state indebted to those officers who made possible the photographing of old records for preservation in a central depository.

CHRISTOPHER B. COLEMAN

Director, Indiana Historical Bureau

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part A. Ripley County and its Records System

1. Historical Sketch 5
Map of Ripley County.

2. Governmental Organization and Records System 11
Chart of Ripley County Governmental Organization.

3. Housing, Care, and Accessibility of the Records..... 26
Floor Plans of Courthouse.

4. Abbreviations, Symbols, and Explanatory Notes 37

Part B. County Offices and their Records

I. Board of Commissioners 42

Court proceedings and reports. Bond issues. Claims and allowances. Roads, bridges, and ditches.

II. County Council 48

III. Clerk of the Circuit Court 50

Official bonds: County, Township, Miscellaneous. Licenses: Marriage, Professional, Business, Hunting and fishing. Receipts and disbursements.

IV. Recorder 57

Deeds, titles, and grants. Mortgages, assignments, and releases: Real estate, Chattels, School fund, Assignments and releases. Liens. Register of legal instruments. Miscellaneous records. Fee and cash books. Maps.

V. Circuit Court 67

Civil causes: Sanity causes, Naturalization causes. Civil proceedings; Entry, Trial, Disposition, Executions. Criminal causes: Indictments. Criminal proceedings: Entry, Trial, Disposition. Probate causes: Estate cases, Guardianship cases. Probate proceedings. Juvenile causes. Miscellaneous records: Bonds, Fee and cash records. Common pleas causes: Court proceedings.

VI. Sheriff 89

Executions and reports. Fee and cash records.

VII. Coroner 93

VIII. Prosecuting Attorney 95

IX. Assessor 97

X. Board of Review 99

XI. Board of Tax Adjustment 102

XII. Board of Finance 104

XIII. School Fund Board 106

XIV. Treasurer 107

Tax collections: Personal and real property. Receipts and disbursements.

XV. Auditor 112

Audits and reports. Receipts and disbursements. Taxes: Appraisements, Returns, Lists, Delinquent and erroneous, Plat books. School funds: Public improvements. Official bonds. Miscellaneous records. Maps.

XVI. Registration Officer 128

XVII. Primary Election Commissioners 130

XVIII. Board of Canvassers 132

XIX. Board of Election Commissioners 133

XX. Board of Education 135

XXI. Superintendent of Schools 137

Activities and reports: Teachers, Pupils.

XXII. Health Commissioner..... 140

Vital statistics.

XXIII. Department of Public Welfare 143

XXIV. Surveyor 149

Surveys and reports. Maps.

XXV. Highway Supervisor 151

XXVI. Agricultural Agent 154

Reports.

PART A. RIPLEY COUNTY AND ITS RECORDS SYSTEM

1. HISTORICAL SKETCH

Ripley County, located in the southeastern quarter of the state, represents 450 square miles contained within an irregular boundary of seven sides circumscribed by the following counties: Franklin on the north, Dearborn and Ohio on the east, Jefferson and Switzerland on the south, Jennings on the west, and Decatur on the northwest. The surface is irregular and hilly but withal generally permits of cultivation. The top soil is mostly clay usually requiring fertilizer for profitable farming.

The English landed and settled at Jamestown in 1607. The French founded Quebec the next year, and began a series of explorations to the west and south that eventually carried LaSalle to the north of the Mississippi River. On April 9, 1682, he claimed the entire river valley in the name of France, calling it Louisiana after his King. In Indiana, French trading posts were established on the present sites of Fort Wayne, Lafayette, and Vincennes by 1732. The English pushed into the Ohio Valley, and economic rivalry between the two nations over the valuable fur trade brought on the French and Indian War. By the Treaty of Paris, February 10, 1763, which ended this conflict, Louisiana was ceded to Great Britain. Shortly after the outbreak of the American Revolution, General George Rogers Clark captured the British posts at Kaskaskia and Vincennes, and this vast empire - the American Middle West - fell into the hands of Virginia. In

1784, Virginia ceded this stretch of land to the United States Government, and three years later the Ordinance of 1787, providing for the establishment and government of Northwest Territory was passed by Congress. Knox County - comprising all of Indiana and parts of Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin - was created in 1790. Indiana Territory was organized in 1800, and in 1816, Indiana was admitted to the Union.

The Shawnee Indians inhabited this country when the first white man, lost from his military company, wandered in about 1781. The Indians attacked him, and he escaped by running up a creek which has since been called Ross' Run in memory of this early incident. The territory out of which Ripley County was later carved belonged to the Miami, Del River, and Sea Indian tribes and was obtained by purchase in what is known as the Treaty of Greenville, August 21, 1808. This particular section of the purchase was surveyed by Stephen Ludlow and assistants in 1807.

At that time there were no settlements here. In 1814 David and Henry Wooley came and established land claims. Three years later they brought their families. In 1815-16 several families moved in and in 1817 the first grist mill was built on Laughery Creek by George Craig.

On December 27, 1816, Ripley County was formed by statute from Dearborn and Jefferson Counties, but the organizing act was not passed until January 14, 1818, effective April 10, 1818. The name of Ripley honors Eleazar Wheelock Ripley, (1782-1839),

statesman and officer in the war of 1812. Until officially organized, jurisdiction remained with Jefferson and Dearborn Counties.

The formative statue described the boundaries as: "All that part of the county of Jefferson, lying north of the line dividing townships five and six north, and east" of a line beginning at "the south east corner of section thirty one in township six north, range ten east; thence north with the sectional line to the Indian boundary," also "all that part of Dearborn County west of the old boundary line." (1) The organizing act described the boundaries as follows: "Beginning at the south east corner of section number thirty-one, in township six, north of range number 10 east, being the south east corner of Jennings county, running thence north with the line of Jennings county to the Indian boundary, thence north-eastwardly with said Indian boundary, to the line of Franklin county, thence east with the said line to the old boundary line, thence south with said old boundary line to the corner of Switzerland county, thence west with the line of said county to the north-west corner thereof, thence south with another line of said county to the north east corner of Jefferson county; thence west with the line of Jefferson county to the place of beginning." (2)

John DePauw, John Conner, John R. Graham, Charles Beggs and William H. Eads were named in the act to select the county seat. The last week of April, 1818, they reported the acceptance of one hundred acres from John DePauw on the bluffs of

Laughery Creek near the center of the county. The site was named Versailles in memory, it is thought, of the old home in France of Dufauw's father who was with Lafayette during the Revolutionary War.

On May 11, 1818, the county commissioners met in New Marion at the house of Benjamin Brown and divided the county according to natural contour into the townships of Laughery, Graham, and Ferry. This subdivision into townships has since been changed so that today only Laughery of the original name appears with Adams, Brown, Center, Delaware, Franklin, Jackson, Johnson, Otter Creek, Shelby, and Washington.

The first session of the circuit court was also held at the house of Benjamin Brown, on July 23, 1818. Judge John Test of the Third Judicial District presided. Conrad Overturf presented his governor's commission as clerk, and Benjamin Kirby as sheriff. Nathaniel French was appointed prosecutor.

The first courthouse, a frame structure, was built in Versailles in 1831 and the county was fully launched on its period of pioneer development. On March 1, 1822, the boundary of Ripley County was fixed as it remains today by the annexation of a small part of Switzerland County. The act provided that "all that part of the connty [county] of Switzerland which lies north of the line running east from the north-west corner of section thirty three in town No. six north of range No. twelve east in the district of public lands sold at Jeffersonville, to the Dearborn county line, be, and the same is hereby attached

to the county of Ripley." (3)

Late in the 1830's the Michigan Road was extended south from Indianapolis passing through Ripley County to Madison on the Ohio River. While this road was barely more than a clearing through the forests it provided a course over which many pioneer families found their way and resulted in an increase in settlement.

The present courthouse was built in 1860-61 and extensively improved in 1913, so that it remains adequate for the present population of 18,078 (1930).

Today Ripley County continues essentially rural with 2,870 farms. The largest town in the county is Batesville with a population of 2,830. Other incorporated towns are Versailles, the county seat, Sunman, Osgood, and Milan.

---

(1) Acts 1816-17, pp. 187, 188.
(2) Acts 1817-18 (special), pp. 32-33.
(3) Acts 1821-22, p. 127.

SOURCES

Illustrated Historical Atlas of Indiana. (Baskin, Forster & Co., 1876.)

WOOFW, MRS. WILLIS E. A pageant covering 110 years of history, 1817-1927).

JORDAN, ED. C. History and directory of Ripley County. (Versailles, 1888.)

Encyclopedia Americana.

U. S. Census, 1930.

2. GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND RECORDS SYSTEM.

Ripley County, with its county seat at Versailles, is a subdivision of the State of Indiana for administrative, judicial, and political purposes. It is a creature of the legislature and possesses only such powers of local government as are conferred by acts of the legislature or are incident and necessary to carry out the provisions thereof. Created by the state, the county is subject to legislative control at any time and its powers may be amplified or diminished without its consent.

Ripley County was organized by an act of the General Assembly, effective April 10, 1818. (1) Its present government, as it functions today, is the result of its development under the original Constitution of 1816, the present Constitution adopted in 1851, and more than a century of legislative action.

The county system of government is an inheritance from England and the American Colonies, whence pioneers in Indiana brought their customs and laws. Its beginnings in Indiana are found in the laws of the Northwest Territory, which recognized the counties already established, and provided for courts and administrative officers, as follows: General court of quarter sessions of the peace, county court of common pleas, (2) and court of probate, (3) commissioners, (4) sheriff, (5) coroner, (6) recorder, (7) treasurer, (8) (circuit court). (9) These officers were appointed by either the governor or the court. The laws of Indiana Territory provided for the appointment of

additional officers; surveyor, (10) assessor, (11) prosecuting attorney, (12) and county agent who conveys and receives conveyances of public lands. (13)

In the year of 1816 Indiana was admitted to the Union and the constitution of that year provided for the election in each county of a clerk of the circuit court, (14) recorder, (15) sheriff, and coroner, (16) and continued the other territorial officers until superseded. (17)

The legislature, in 1817, established a body called the board of commissioners, elected by the voters of the county; (18) the office of treasurer, who was appointed by the board of commissioners; (19) and in 1818 the office of surveyor, who was appointed and commissioned by the Governor of the state. (20)

When Ripley County was organized in 1818, its government followed the form outlined above. With the changes enumerated below, the original organization continued practically unchanged for over thirty years.

In 1824, the board of commissioners was abolished, and its functions conferred upon the justices of the peace of the county, who constituted the board for doing county business, (21) until in 1831 the board of commissioners was reestablished, which consisted of three members elected by the voters. (22) In 1831 the legislature made the surveyor an appointee of the board of commissioners, (23) and in 1841 created the elective office of auditor. (24)

As the state grew, there was much dissatisfaction with the

Constitution of 1816, but repeated attempts to change it did not succeed until 1850, when a constitutional convention was called which framed a new constitution. (25) This constitution was submitted to the qualified voters of the state and adopted in 1851 and proclaimed by the governor to be effective on November 1, 1851, and with amendments, remains the Constitution of Indiana. (26)

Each county is a political subdivision of the state and has an individual governmental organization. Although the Constitution of 1851 forbids special legislation, (27) and the general outline of the organization of county government remains the same, the general assembly has provided the necessary variations to take care of local needs and conditions. These variations lie chiefly in the number of officers and courts provided for counties within classifications based upon population. Urban and rural areas obviously cannot be ruled by the same number of officers. Each county has the constitutional officers, but the statutory officers vary in number, powers, and duties. The latter officers may be compulsory in all counties, or they may be optional and therefore established in only a few instances; others are authorized in only certain classes of counties, though the class may include only one county.

Indiana stands alone among the states of the Union in having a dual system of county governing boards, since the establishment in each county of a county council in 1899. (28) Each county is governed by a board of commissioners and a county

council. The duties of these agencies, with technical distinction, are enumerated in their proper places below.

From the beginning of the present century a tendency toward centralization of power in the hands of state authorities has taken from county officials many of their powers and duties and has greatly lessened the scope of those remaining. In older fields of finance, roads, and education, the state's supervision has greatly increased, and the creation of newer state departments such as police, food and fire inspection, and public welfare, has caused heavy removal of local responsibility and control.

Present Administration

The Constitution of 1851 reorganized the governmental structure, enlarging the number of constitutional officers to be elected by the people of the county, as follows: (29)

Clerk of the circuit court, who, by statutory provision, keeps the records of the proceedings of all county courts and performs other administrative duties, including serving as registration officer and member of the county election boards.

Recorder, who makes and preserves a public record of all legal documents, both official and private, as may be prescribed by law.

Sheriff, who is conservator of the peace and executes orders of the county courts and boards.

Coroner, who holds inquests in all cases of death by violence

and of suspicious circumstances.

Treasurer, who receives and disburses all county moneys including the collection of taxes, and serves as ex-officio member of the board of review.

Auditor, who is the financial agent of the county, compiles the county budget estimates, prepares the tax duplicates, and serves as clerk and member of several county boards.

Surveyor, who has charge of all surveying and civil engineering work of the county, including the maintenance of drainage systems. (30)

The constitution also empowered the legislature to prescribe such other officers as may become necessary. (31) Under this authority the legislature has from time to time established the following statutory officers and boards:

Board of commissioners, the leading governing body of the county, often called the "county board", or the "board for doing county business". It consists of three members elected for terms of three years. The board furnishes and maintains county buildings and grounds, administers the financial transactions of the county and audits the accounts of all officers who handle moneys of the county, and is responsible for the maintenance of county highways. (32)

County council, another governing body, created in 1899, (33) to control the finances of county government. This council consists of seven members, elected for terms of four years. The council has power to fix the tax rate for county purposes

and for all purposes where the rate is not fixed by law and is required to be uniform throughout the county; to adopt the county budget and the exclusive right to make appropriations from the county treasury; and the exclusive power to authorize the borrowing of money and the issuing of bonds. (34)

Superintendent of schools, in 1873, (35) who has general superintendence of all schools of the county outside of incorporated cities and towns. (36) Elected by the township trustees, (37) he is ex-officio member and president of the county board of education. (38)

Board of education, in 1873, (39) consisting since an amendment of 1877, of the superintendent of schools, township trustees, and the chairman of school trustees of each city and town of the county. The board considers the general wants and needs of the schools and school property, and all matters relating to the purchase of school furniture, books, maps, and charts. (40)

Health officer, in 1881, originally secretary of the board of health, (41) abolished by an act of 1909, which created the office of health commissioner, (42) whose title was changed in 1935 to health officer. He is appointed by the board of commissioners and must be legally qualified to practice medicine and enforce the health laws of the state. (43)

Assessor, in 1891, (44) who instructs and advises the township assessors, reviews their returns and examines the tax duplicates, assesses omitted real and personal property, (45) and appraises estates for inheritance taxes. (46) He is elected

by the voters of the county, (47) and is ex-officio member and president of the board of review. (48)

Board of review, in 1891, whose members are the county assessor, auditor, and treasurer, (49) and, by an amendment of 1919, two freeholders of opposite political parties, appointed by the judge of the circuit court. (50) This board equalizes tax assessments as between townships or other taxing units and between individual property owners, and may set aside the aggregate assessment, if too high or too low, of the whole county or any taxing unit thereof and order a new assessment. (51)

Board of finance, in 1907, consisting of the board of commissioners, with the auditor as secretary. (52) This board has the custody of county funds and selects the depositories, (53) apportioning the deposits among the banks in agreement with municipal corporations in the county according to the total resources of the depositories. (54)

Agricultural agent, in 1913, who, under the supervision of Purdue University, conducts farmers' institutes and other movements for the advancement of agriculture and country life, and aids the superintendent of schools and the teachers of the county in agricultural education and domestic science. He is appointed by the director of agricultural extension service of Purdue University, subject to the approval of the state board known as the county agricultural agent board. (55)

Highway supervisor, in 1933, who supervises, under the direction of the board of commissioners, the repair and maintenance

of all county highways. The board of commissioners [illegible] the appointment and may appoint the surveyor as highway supervisor. The board of commissioners of Ripley County has appointed the surveyor as highway supervisor.

Board of tax adjustment, in 1933, consisting of seven members (57) who, by an amendment of 1927, are: One member of the county council, chosen by the council; the mayor of the largest city in the county or any public official of any city in the county, appointed by the mayor of the largest city of the county; one member of the county board of education, selected by such board; and four freeholders appointed by the judge of the circuit court. The board examines any tax levy and the corresponding items of the budget, and adjusts the tax rate so that it shall not exceed, in any municipal corporation, the total tax rate prescribed by law. (58)

School fund board, in 1933, consisting of three members; the auditor and the clerk of the circuit court, ex officio, and one member appointed by the judge of the circuit court. The board makes all loans from the common school and the congressional township school funds to owners of real estate, duly secured by mortgage. (59)

Department of public welfare, in 1933, (60) comprising the board of public welfare, consisting of five members appointed by the judge of the circuit court, (61) and the director of public welfare, appointed by the board. (62) The department administers the measures of public welfare as prescribed by

law and the rules of the state department. (63)

Registration officer, in 1933, who is the clerk of the circuit court ex-officio. He conducts the registration of voters (64) and furnishes a list of the registered voters to the inspector of each precinct. (65)

Board of election commissioners, in 1889, consisting of the clerk of the circuit court and two persons appointed by him, of opposite political parties. The board prepares, prints, and distributes ballots for general elections (66) and appoints the precinct officials. (67)

Board of canvassers, in 1905, which is the board of election commissioners. (68) The board canvasses, tabulates, and compiles the election returns of the county (69) and certifies the candidates elected. (70)

Board of primary election commissioners, in 1915, consisting of the clerk of the circuit court and two persons appointed by him, of opposite political parties. The board prepares, prints, and distributes ballots for primary elections. (71)

Judicial

The judicial system of Ripley County, as of other Indiana counties, is prescribed by the constitution and subsequent acts of the Indiana General Assembly. The constitution authorized and directed that the state be divided into judicial circuits. (72) Ripley County constitutes the eightieth circuit, established in 1935. (73) Previously, it was a part of a judicial circuit to

which other counties were attached. The constitution further provides for the election of a judge (74) and a prosecuting attorney for the circuit, (75) and a clerk of the circuit court. (76) The circuit court has original exclusive jurisdiction in all cases, criminal, civil, probate, and juvenile, except where exclusive or concurrent jurisdiction is conferred by law upon justices of the peace, and such appellate jurisdiction as is conferred by law. It also has jurisdiction of all other causes, matters, and proceedings where exclusive jurisdiction thereof is not conferred by law upon some other court or office. (77)

Records System

The records of Ripley County began with its creation in 1818. The establishment of each of the county offices and bureaus inaugurated their records which were kept in such fashion as the incumbents saw fit, following in the main the directions of the general assembly under the provisions for each respective office. In 1909, the legislature established the state board of accounts, which formulates, prescribes, and installs systems of accounting and reporting which are uniform for every public office of the same class. (78) Under this law some of the records were combined to eliminate separation, duplication, and overlapping. The board also permits the use of bound loose-leaf records in almost all cases where the records are typed. The quality of the paper and ink and the binding and rebinding practices are left to the judgment of the board of county

commissioners, except that a good quality is required.

Whenever it may be necessary for the preservation of the records of any office, it is the duty of the board of commissioners to issue an order directing the officer in charge to copy and transcribe the records. (79)

In 1923 a law was passed permitting county officials, at their discretion, to turn over to the archives division of the state library for permanent preservation, any official books, records, documents, original papers, newspaper files, or printed books and material not in current use in their offices. (80) This law is optional and has been ineffectual. County officials are loath to part with records, even when no longer in use and in spite of lack of storage space, anticipating a possible call for them. Consequently, they have only occasionally availed themselves of this provision for permanent preservation of their old records.

The recorder and other county officials, by an act of 1927, are authorized to record deeds, mortgages, and other instruments by an approved photographic process adopted by the board of commissioners. (81)

In 1937, the general assembly authorized the director of the state library, at his discretion, to make a copy, by photography or in any other way, of any official book, record, document, original paper, newspaper, or printed book or material in any county, city, or other public office, for preservation in the state archives. All public officials must permit copies to be

made of the books, records, documents, and papers in their respective offices. (32)

---

(1) Acts 1817-18 (special), pp. 32-33.
(2) Laws, Northwest Territory, Acts 1795, ch. 2, p. 4, 7.
(3) Ibid., ch. 3.
(4) Ibid., Acts 1795, p. 201.
(5) Ibid., Acts 1795, ch. 2. p. 8.
(6) Ibid., Acts 1795, ch. 3, p. 24.
(7) Ibid., Acts 1795, p. 197.
(8) Ibid., Acts 1792, ch. 2, sec. 3.
(9) Ibid., Acts 1795, ch. 2, p. 3-7; Acts 1795, p. 156-57, sec. 9.
(10) Laws, Indiana Territory, Acts 1802, p. 25, sec. 1.
(11) Ibid., Acts 1805, ch. 32, sec. 1.
(12) Ibid., Acts 1810, ch. 10, sec. 3.
(13) Ibid., Acts 1813, ch. 10, sec. 2.
(14) Const. 1816, art. 3, sec. 3.
(15) Ibid., art. 11, sec. 10.
(16) Ibid., art. 4, sec. 28.
(17) Ibid., art. 12, sec. 3.
(18) Acts 1816-17, ch. 15, sec. 1.
(19) Ibid., ch. 17, secs. 1-2.
(20) Acts 1817-18, ch. 30, sec. 1.
(21) Rev. Acts 1824, ch. 15, secs. 1, 11, 16-17.
(22) Rev. Laws 1831, ch. 20, secs. 1, 12, 14.
(23) Ibid., ch. 102, sec. 1.
(24) Acts 1841, ch. 2, sec. 1.
(25) Acts 1850, ch. 21, sec. 9.
(26) Mettleborough, Charles. Constitution Making in Indiana. Vol. 1, p. 222.
(27) Const., art. 4, sec. 22.
(28) Acts 1899; Burns 26-501.
(29) Const., art. 3, sec. 2.
(30) For citations, see the legal status essays of these offices in Section B.
(31) Const., art. 6, sec. 3.
(32) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852, Acts 1929; Burns 26-601; 1 Rev. Stat. 1852, Acts 1935; Burns, 1937 suppl., 26-620; Acts 1919; Burns 36-301.
(33) Acts 1899; Burns 26-501.
(34) Acts 1899; Burns 26-518, 26-520; Acts 1899, 1921, 1929, Burns 26-532.
(35) Acts 1873, ch. 25, sec. 2.
(36) Acts 1899; Burns 26-704.
(37) Acts 1899, 1911, 1923; Burns 26-702.
(38) Acts 1873, 1877; Burns 26-601.
(39) Acts 1873, ch. 25, sec. 8.
(40) Acts 1873, 1877; Burns 26-601.
(41) Rev. Stat. 1881, sec. 4993.
(42) Acts 1881, 1909; Burns 36-108.
(43) Acts 1935; Burns, 1937 suppl., 36-110.
(44) Acts 1881, ch. 89, sec. 112.
(45) Acts 1919; Burns 64-1102.
(46) Acts 1881, 1935; Burns 64-2408.
(47) Acts 1919, 1921; Burns 64-1101.
(48) Acts 1919, 1920 (Spec. Sess.); Burns 64-1201.
(49) Acts 1881, ch. 89, sec. 114.
(50) Acts 1919, 1920 (Spc. Sess.); Burns 64-1201.
(51) Acts 1919; Burns 64-1305.
(52) Acts 1907; Burns 61-606; Acts 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 61-629.
(53) Acts 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 61-636.
(54) Ibid., 61-635.
(55) Acts 1913, 1923, 1927, 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 26-4911.
(56) Acts 1933; Burns 36-1103, 36-1110.
(57) Acts 1933; Burns 64-304.

(58) Acts 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 64-810.
(59) Acts 1933; Burns, 1937 suppl., 28-309.
(60) Acts 1936 (Spc. Sess.); Burns, 1937 suppl., 52-1117.
(61) Ibid., 52-1118.
(62) Ibid., 52-1119.
(63) Ibid., 52-1120.
(64) Acts 1933, 1935; Burns, 1937 suppl., 28-306.
(65) Acts 1933, 1935; Burns, 1937 suppl., 28-317.
(66) Acts 1899; Burns 21-1002.
(67) Acts 1929, 1933; Burns 28-304, Acts 1929; Burns 28-305, 28-306, 28-307.
(68) Acts 1902; 1927; Burns 28-1401.
(69) Acts 1905; Burns 28-1404.
(70) Ibid., 28-1405.
(71) Acts 1915, 1917; Burns 28-404.
(72) Const., art. 7, sec. 9.
(73) Acts 1935; Burns 4-332.
(74) Const., art. 7, sec. 9; Acts 1934; Burns 4-301.
(75) Ibid., sec. 11; 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-2501.
(76) Ibid., art. 6, sec. 2; 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-2701.
(77) Acts 1881 (Spc. Sess.) Burns 4-303.
(78) Acts 1909; Burns 62-202, 60-324.
(79) Acts 1877; Burns 26-634.
(80) Acts 1925, 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 63-830.
(81) Acts 1927; Burns 49-3207.
(82) Acts 1925, 1937; Burns 1937 suppl., 63-830.

SOURCES

BURNS, HARRISON, editor. Annotated. Indiana statutes containing all sections of a general and public nature in force. Sept. 1, 1933. 21 vols. with Suppl. 1937 in pocket in each cover. (The Bobbs-Merrill Company. Indianapolis, Indiana, c1933 and 1934) The year is given in references only in citations to supplement. Numbers refer to sections which run in one continuous, consecutive series as explained in Burns 1; iii-iv.

FLICKNER, HAROLD C. Indiana county government. (402 pp. Historical Bulletin, Historical Bureau, March 1932.)

KETCHEBONOUGH, WENDELL. Constitution making in Indiana. 3 vols. (Vol. 1 and 2 Indiana Historical Commission. Indianapolis, 1916. Vol. 3. Historical Bureau. Indianapolis, 1933.)

Laws of Indiana Territory, The: 1801-1809. Edited by Francis S. Philbrick. Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library: Vol. 21. Reprinted with supplementary Indiana Material. (741 pp. Historical Bureau. Indianapolis, 1931.)

Laws of Indiana Territory, The: 1809-1816. Edited by Louis B. Ewbank and Dorothy L. Riker. (932 pp. Indianapolis, Indiana. Historical Bureau. 1934.)

Laws of the Northwest Territory, The: 1788-1800. Edited by Theodore Calvin Pease. Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library Law Series: Vol. 1. (591 pp. Trustees of the Illinois State Historical Library. Springfield, Illinois, c1925.)

MONKS, LEANDER J., editor. Courts and lawyers of Indiana, 2 vols. (1487 pp. Federal Publishing Co., Inc. Indianapolis, 1916.)

SIMS, RUSSELL S. State Government in Indiana, The (12 pp. Principia Press, Inc. Bloomington, Ind., 1937.)

SNIDER, CLYDE FRANK. County and township government in Indiana. (18 pp. Urbana, Ill., 1933.)

SNIDER, CLYDE FRANK. Indiana Counties and townships. (Indiana Magazine of history. June 1937, 33; 119-142.)

SNIDER, CLYDE FRANK. Organization and function of county boards in Indiana, The. (Indiana Law Journal, April 1937, 12; 301-315.)

SNIDER, CLYDE FRANK, and SAFLEBIELD, MAX M. County and township government in Indiana. (Report of the Indiana State Committee on Governmental Economy. p. 99-120, 176-181.)

THOMPSON, W. H. A manual of practice before county commissioners including the powers and duties of county officers in Indiana. (2009 p. Indianapolis, The Bobbs-Merrill Co. c1926. 2 vols.)

Also the Sessions Laws of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, 1816-1937.

Floor plans of first floor to appear here.

HOUSING, CARE, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE RECORDS

The Ripley County courthouse, constructed in 1860-1862 of brick and limestone, is situated on a public square in Versailles. In 1913 it underwent an expensive remodeling, which involved the installation of metal ceilings and metal flooring over the original wood in the clerk's vault, with other improvements tending to make the building fire-resistant. All rooms on the first and second floors, except the clerk's vault noted above, have wooden floors, plastered brick walls, and metal ceilings. On the first floor are located the offices of the commissioners, the clerk, the recorder, the sheriff, the treasurer, the auditor, and the agricultural agent; on the second floor, the offices of the superintendent of schools and the department of public welfare, and a storage room for records; and in the basement, another record storage room.

Board of Commissioners

Though none of the records of the board of commissioners are housed in their office, on the south side of the first floor, 3% of the auditor's records are kept there. [No details on this room are available at present] Of the records of the board of commissioners, 1% is in the auditor's office, and 99% are in his vault.

County Council

All the records of the county council are in the auditor's vault.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

In the clerk's office on the northeast corner of the first floor, and in his vault adjoining are most of the records of that bureau, together with those of the circuit court, the coroner, the registration officer, and the election boards. Well lighted, well ventilated, and equipped with adequate accommodations for users, the office, 26' by 22' by 18', houses 30' of volumes and 10' of unbound records in file boxes 5" deep. Additional shelving, for which there is space, will be necessary for expansion of the records. The vault, which measures 26' by 6' by 18', is in much the same condition, but, because of its narrowness, is not equipped with accommodations for users of the records. One hundred feet of volumes and 14' of unbound records in file boxes 4" deep are kept here. Twenty-seven per cent of the clerk's records are in the office, 57% in the vault, and 16% in the second floor storage room.

Recorder

The recorder's office, also occupied by the surveyor, lies at the northwest corner of the first floor. The vault lies between the office and the clerk's vault. Measuring 30' by 23' by 18', the office houses 21' of volumes and 1' of unbound records in file boxes 16" deep--44% of the recorder's records and all the surveyor's records. The vault, whose dimensions are 23' by 5' by 18', contains 152' of volumes, which comprises 56% of the recorder's records and a portion of the auditor's records.

Space is available in the office for more shelving, which will soon be needed, but no space for expansion of the records can be obtained in the vault. Both office and vault are well lighted and well ventilated, and in both rooms, users of the records are well accommodated.

Circuit Court

The circuit court records are in the custody of the clerk. Two per cent of the records are in the clerk's office, 24% in his vault, 1 volume in the auditor's vault, and 75% in the second floor storage room.

Sheriff

The sheriff's office, at the east end of the first floor, contains 37% of the records of that bureau and portions of the records of the board of primary election commissioners and the board of election commissioners. The dimensions of the office are 18' by 13' by 18'. Well lighted and well ventilated, it is equipped with 17' of shelving, on which are 14' of bound volumes. Users of the records are satisfactorily accommodated. The remainder of the sheriff's records--63%-- are in the second floor storage room.

Coroner

The coroner's records are in the clerk's vault.

Board of Review

The records of the board of review are in the auditor's vault.

Board of Tax Adjustment

The records of the board of tax adjustment are in the auditor's vault.

Board of Finance

The records of the board of finance are in the auditor's office.

School Fund Board

The records of the school fund board are in the auditor's office.

Treasurer

A well lighted, well ventilated office, 28' by 27' by 18', on the south side of the first floor, is occupied by the treasurer. Equipped with 156' of shelving, it houses 104' of bound volumes. Twenty four per cent of the treasurer's records are in this room, 1% in the auditor's vault, and 75% in the second floor storage room. A small portion of the auditor's records are housed here. Satisfactory accommodations are provided for persons consulting the records.

Auditor

At the southwest corner of the first floor are an office and a vault, measuring 27' by 21' by 13' and 12' by 6' by 9', respectively, which are occupied by the auditor. Lighting and ventilation in both rooms are good. Accommodations for users are limited in the vault, but these can be obtained in the adjoining office. In the office are 45' of volumes and 25' of unbound records in file boxes 10" deep, approximately 30' of shelving being unoccupied. In the vault are 60' each of bound and unbound records; no space for expansion can be obtained here. Of the auditor's records, 14% are in the office, 13% in the vault, 3% in the commissioners' office, 1% in the treasurer's office, 10% in the recorder's vault, and 51% in the second floor storage room. The office and vault also contain records of the board of commissioners; the county council; the sheriff; the board of review, tax adjustment, and finance; the school fund board; and the treasurer.

Registration Officer

The position of registration officer is filled by the clerk of the circuit court. Twenty-six per cent of the records of the registration officer are in the clerk's office, 3% in the clerk's vault, and 71% in the second floor storage room.

Board of Primary Election Commissioners

Forty per cent of the records of the board of primary election commissioners are in the clerk's vault and 60% in the sheriff's office.

Board of Canvassers

All the records of the board of canvassers are in the clerk's vault.

Board of Election Commissioners

Fifty per cent of the records of the board of election commissioners are in the clerk's vault, and 50% in the sheriff's office.

Board of Education

All the records of the board of education are in the office of the superintendent of schools.

Superintendent of Schools

The office of the superintendent of schools, a well lighted, well ventilated room at the northeast corner of the second floor, is 18' by 12' by 14'. Five feet of shelving in this room carry 4' of volumes and 1' of unbound records in file boxes 12" deep; space is available for additional shelving. All the records of the superintendent of schools and the board of education are housed in this room, in which users of the records are accommodated.

Health Commissioner

The records of the health commissioner are kept at the office of the present incumbent, Dr. A. Whitlatch, at his residence in Milan. These records--all those of the health commissioner--comprise 2' of volumes. As situated at present, the records are well housed.

Department of Public Welfare

The welfare office, on the southwest corner of the second floor, is 18' by 12' by 14', and houses all the records of that department. The office is well lighted and well ventilated, and furnishes users of the records with adequate accommodations. One foot of bound volumes and 3' of unbound records in file boxes 10" deep are housed here. Additional equipment will be needed, if expansion of the records is desired.

Surveyor

The surveyor occupies an office jointly with the recorder. The office is described under the latter. All the surveyor's records are kept there.

Highway Supervisor

Forty per cent of the highway supervisor's records are kept in his office [for which no details are available at present.] The other 60% are in the basement storage room.

Agricultural Agent

Lying opposite the sheriff's office, at the east end of the first floor, the agricultural agent's office measures 14' by 12' by 12', and is well lighted and well ventilated. All the records of the agricultural agent--1' of volumes and 5' of unbound records in file boxes 16" deep are here. The present equipment is adequate, both for the housing of the records and for their users.

Storage Rooms

1417702

Two rooms--one in the basement and one on the second floor--are used for the storage of old records. /No details on the basement storage room, in which are 60% of the highway supervisor's records, are available at present./ The second floor storage room is 31' by 14' by 18'. The ventilation is poor, and there is no artificial lighting, natural light being supplied by one window; dust is present in sizable amounts. Three hundred feet of volumes occupy all the shelving, an undetermined quantity of volumes and unbound records in cartons being stacked on the floor. Additional shelving can be constructed, but not in sufficient quantity to care for the records already in the room. Sixteen per cent of the clerk's records, 74% of the records of the circuit court, 63% of the sheriff's records, 73% of the treasurer's records, 51% of the auditor's records, and 71% of the records of the registration officer are housed here.

Review

Certain offices have no more space for future records, and, in view of the improper conditions in the second floor storage room, it is scarcely desirable to transfer more records to that room; indeed, the removal of many records already there is advisable.

It is understood that plans are being made for transferring these records to a permanent depository. It is not known exactly what records it is planned to transfer, but if, as is usual with public depositories, only older records are removed, the problem will not be solved completely; or if all records are removed, it will have the undesirable effect of decentralizing the records. In either case the solution will be either incomplete or undesirable.

The construction of a modern fireproof storage room in the basement, where space is available, deserves serious consideration.

4. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS, SYMBOLS, AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

The Style Manual of the United States Government Printing Office is the authority followed herein.

Acts	[Session] Laws of the State of Indiana (commonly referred to by binder's title, Acts).
agr. agt.	agricultural agent, agricultural agent's
alph.	alphabetical, alphabetically
arr.	arranged
art.	article
Assr.	assessor, assessor's
aud.	auditor, auditor's
Baldwin	BALDWIN, WILLIAM L. WARD, editor. Baldwin's Indiana Statutes Annotated 1934, complete in one volume, containing all general laws to January 1, 1934 together with annotations from decisions of the supreme and appellate courts. (Cleveland, Ohio. Burks-Baldwin Law Publishing Co., [1934].) With supplements May 1936 and May 1937. (The year is given in references only in citations to supplements. Numbers refer to sections which run in one continuous, consecutive series.)
bdl.	bundle
Bldg.	Building
bsmt.	basement
Burns	BURNS, HARRISON, editor. Annotated Indiana Statutes containing all acts of a general and public nature in force September 1, 1933. (12 vols. Indianapolis, Ind. The Bobbs-Merrill Company, [c1933, c1934, c1935, c1937].) With supplement 1937 in pocket in cover of each volume. (The year is given in references only in citations to supplements. Numbers refer to sections which run in one continuous, consecutive series as explained in Burns 1:iii-iv.)

c	copyright (before date)
C. C.	County Courthouse
ch.	chapter
chron.	chronological, chronologically
clk.	clerk, clerk's
Const.	Constitution of Indiana (refers to present constitution unless date follows)
hdw.	handwritten
hlth. comr.	health commissioner, health commissioner's
ibid.	ibidem (same reference as that immediately foregoing)
Ind.	Indiana: Indiana Reports (when preceded by the volume number, reference is to the official state court reports).
Laws Ind. Terr.	Laws of Indiana Territory, The: 1801-1809.
Laws N. W. Terr.	Laws of the Northwest Territory, The: 1788-1800.
mi.	mile
no., nos.	number, numbers
off.	office
p., pp.	page, pages
pros. atty.	prosecuting attorney, prosecuting attorney's
pt.	part
publ. wfr.	public welfare
pvt.	private
rec.	record
recr.	recorder, recorder's
Rev. Laws	Revised Laws of Indiana
Rev. Stat.	Revised Statutes of Indiana

rm.	room
sec.	section
shf.	sheriff, sheriff's
spc. sess.	special session
stat.	statutes
stg.	storage
suppl.	supplement
sur.	surveyor, surveyor's
supt.	superintendent, superintendent's
tr.	treasurer, treasurer's
twp.	township
U. S.	United States
vol., vols.	volume, volumes
--	current
'	foot, feet
"	inch, inches (omitted after dimensions in entries)
x	by

Other abbreviations in common use are occasionally used.

Explanatory Notes

The inventory of the records of each bureau is preceded by an essay explaining its legal status and functions. As a comparative basis for the dates of the records, the inception date of each office may be taken as either the date of the organization of the county or, if the office was established later, the year of the act inaugurating it.

Entries are grouped under an outline classification, using headings and subheadings according to rel tive functions. Every entry has two parts or paragraphs: Title and description. Occasionally an entry may have a third (cross-reference) paragraph.

I. The title paragraph consists of:

Entry number. The entries are numbered consecutively.

Exact title (in capitals and small capitals) as it appears on the record. Titles enclosed in brackets are supplied by The Historical Records Survey, if the volume or file bears no title. Supplementary titles (in capitals and lower-case letters), enclosed in brackets, are also supplied where it is necessary to explain the types of records more fully, or where the exact title borne by the record is incorrect or misleading.

Dates of the period covered by the record, showing inclusive beginning and ending dates by years only. In a divided year, the month and day are given unless unascertainable. A dash in place of an ending date denotes a continuous open record.

Quantity.

Markings, if a series or a part of a series. Where the entry consists of one unit, marked 1, the marking is omitted; if otherwise marked, except by dates, marking is given. If the marking is inconsistent or confusing, the notation "labeling varies" or "numbering varies" follows the quantity.

Missing volumes.

Subtitles or variations in title.

II. The description consists of:

A complete description of the record, the contents, and its purpose, with a resume of the column headings or subjects treated.

Method of arrangement or indexing, if any.

Nature of recording. Modern records are almost exclusively in printed form, filled in by hand or typewriter as stated in entry.

Condition. If good or excellent, it is omitted.

Number of pages averaged for a series.

Size, in the order of height, width, and depth, averaged for a series, is given in inches; hence the inch sign is omitted.

Location. The place of custody (the room in which the records are located) is given in the entry, and refers to the courthouse unless another building is specified.

III. Cross-reference are made to other entries:

For records which have related functions.

For records having earlier or later recordings under a different title or type of record.

For records on which supplementary information may be found in other entries.

Whenever an entry contains more than one type of record, all the data are given in a master entry under the actual title or under a complete title, if supplied, with reference to subordinate entries for each part. The subordinate entries consist of title, dates, and description only.

I. BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The board of commissioners is a statutory body comprising three members (1) elected for terms of three years. Elections are so arranged that one member shall retire each year. (2) The county is divided into three districts from each of which one member is elected by the electorate of the entire county. (3)

Ripley County has had a board for doing county business since 1818, the date of its organization. For the first year it was composed of the justices of the peace of the several townships of the county, as provided by an act of 1824, (4) with the powers and duties originally conferred upon the board of commissioners of the several counties by an act of 1817. (5) An act of 1831 established the board of commissioners consisting of three elective members, (6) and the revised statutes of 1852 confirmed it in its present form.(7)

The board is the administrative agency of the county and exercises all powers for the transaction of county business conferred by law. (8) In 1899 the fiscal powers were vested exclusively in the county council, which was then created. (9)

The board of commissioners is a body corporate and politic by the name and style of "The Board of Commissioners of the County of Ripley", and as such, and in such name, may sue and be sued, possessing duties, rights, and powers incident to corporations. (10) It meets in regular sessions beginning on the first Monday of every month (11) and in special sessions called for specifically stated business by the county auditor,

its clerk ex officio, (12) or, in case of death or disqualification, by the clerk of the circuit court and recorder, respectively. (13) Any two members constitute a quorum to do business. (14)

Its principal functions are: Control of county property, allowance of claims against the county, auditing accounts of all officers handling county money, (15) and exercise of the right of eminent domain. (16) Other powers, in specific instances, have been conferred upon the board by the legislature: Letting of contracts for county buildings; (17) purchase of materials and supplies; (18) supervision of maintenance of roads, bridges, and culverts; (19) preparation of the annual budget estimates; (20) abolition or change of township or precinct boundary lines; (21) establishment and maintenance of libraries (22) and hospitals; (23) authorization of payment of bounties; offering of rewards; (24) and authorization of subscription to and preservation of public newspapers printed in the county. (25)

Besides its administrative functions, the board sits as a court in the trial of causes concerning county business. For the transaction of business it adopts its own regulations, but for court sessions it must comply, so far as practicable, with the rules for conducting business in the circuit court. (26) Appeals from its decisions can be taken to the circuit court pursuant to provisions of statute. (27)

The commissioners, by virtue of their office, were constituted a board of turnpike directors by an act of 1879, for

the management and control of all free turnpikes in the county. Each director had personal supervision of one district. Their powers were to appoint suitable persons to supervise the work of repairs, contract for labor materials, enter upon lands to take gravel and to give certificates of payments, and to appoint a clerk of the board. (28) An act of 1905 made the county auditor the clerk of the board. (29)

This board was abolished in 1913, and the highways were placed in charge of a superintendent of highways appointed by the commissioners. (30)

This office was likewise abolished twenty years later and supervision of highways was transferred to the surveyor, (31) unless the commissioners appoint a highway supervisor. The county commissioners may employ the surveyor to serve as highway supervisor. (32)

The auditor, as clerk, attends the meetings of the board of commissioners, keeps a record of its proceedings and preserves all the books and papers touching county business in his office. (33)

All the records are located in the courthouse.

---

(1) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1929; Burns 26-601.
(2) Acts 1865; Burns 26-704.
(3) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 26-602.
(4) Rev. Laws 1824, ch. 15, secs. 1,-11, 16-17.
(5) Acts 1817, ch. 15, sec. 1.
(6) Rev. Laws, 1831, ch. 20, secs. 1, 12, 14.
(7) 1 Rev. Stat. 1862, ch. 20, sec. 1.
(8) Acts 1817, ch. 15, sec. 1; Const., art. 6, sec. 10.
(9) Acts 1889; Burns 26-601, 26-615; Acts 1899, 1921, 1929; Burns 26-632.
(10) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 26-606.
(11) Acts 1899; Burns 26-550.
(12) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-3004; Acts 1899; Burns 26-610.
(13) Acts 1863; Burns 26-607.

(14) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1929; Burns 26-801.
(15) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852, Acts 1933; Burns, 1927 suppl., 26-820.
(16) Acts 1903; Burns 26-2101; Acts 1913; Burns 36-303, Acts 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 26-640.
(17) Acts 1937; Burns 26-2002, 26-2004.
(18) Acts 1899, 1903, 1905; Burns 26-536, Acts 1899; Burns 26-535.
(19) Acts 1919; Burns 36-801.
(20) Acts 1899; Burns 26-516, 26-519.
(21) Acts 1889; Burns 26-701; Acts 1919; Burns 26-705.
(22) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-501.
(23) Acts 1905; Burns 22-3001.
(24) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1875, 1883, 1899, 1911; Burns 26-1101 to 26-1106.
(25) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 26-626.
(26) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 26-617.
(27) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 26-601.
(28) Acts 1879, ch. 115, sec. 1.
(29) Acts 1905, ch. 167, sec. 85.
(30) Acts 1913, ch. 330, sec. 1.
(31) Acts 1933; Burns 36-1101.
(32) Acts 1933; Burns 36-1110.
(33) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 26-611, 26-621, 49-3004.

Court Proceedings and Reports

1. COMMISSIONERS' RECORD, 1818--. 25 vols. (A-E, and 1-20).

Title varies: Minute Book; County Record; Record.

Record of the proceedings of the commissioners' court, showing date and amount of appropriation, and date allowances made for county institutions and road repair. Indexed alph. by titles of subject matters. Hdw. 400 pp. 13 x 8 x 1½. Aud. vt.

2. COMMISSIONERS' COURT, 1892-34. 48 file boxes.

Record of cases acted upon by commissioners' court, showing bridge, ditch, and road petitions; specifications, contracts; applications for entrance to county institutions; and decision of commissioners. No index. 10 x 5 x 4½. Aud. vt.

3. ASYLUM RECORD, 1877-1901. 1 vol.

Record of conduct and management of asylum for the poor, showing date, number and sex of inmates, itemized account of expenditures, total cost, and signature of superintendent. No index. Hdw. 600 pp. 16 x 12 x 2½. Aud. vt.

Bond Issues

4. BOND REGISTER, 1884--. 3 vols. (1-2, and 1 vol. not numbered).

Record of all county bond issues, showing date, kind, amount, and purpose of bond; rate of interest; date of maturity; name and address of purchaser; and date sold. Arr. chron. Hdw. 500 pp. 16 x 13 x 2. Aud. main off.

5. RECORD OF COLLATERAL BONDS, 1907-8. 1 vol.

Record of collateral bonds posted by county officials in addition to regular bond, showing date and amount of bond, names of office and official, names of sureties, and signatures of principals. Indexed alph. by names of sureties. Hdw. 240 pp. 17 x 15 x 1. Aud. vt.

Claims and Allowances

6. COMMISSIONERS' CLAIM AND ALLOWANCE DOCKET, 1897--. 6 vols. (1-4, and 1-2). Title varies: Commissioners' Docket.

Record of claims filed and allowed for services, labor, and materials; showing date, number, cause or purpose, and amount of claim; name of claimant, title of appropriation, commissioners' allowance, and warrant number. Arr. by claim nos. Hdw. 450 pp. 17 x 12 x 2. Aud. main vt.

7. OLD AGE PENSION RECORD, (Applications), 1933-36.

1 vol.

Record of applications for old age pensions, showing name, age, residence, sex, color, birthplace, personal history, and marital status of applicant. No index. Hdw. and typed. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Aud. off.

For other old age pension records, see entries 173 and 235.

Roads, Bridges, and Ditches

8. RECORD OF ROADS, 1852-1933. 5 vols. (1-5).

Title varies: Road Record, Commissioners.

Record of commissioners' acts in connection with road work, showing specifications of work to be done, date of petition, number and amount of bids received, and contracts let and approved. Arr. chron. 1852-1922, hdw.; 1922-23, typed; 1923-33, hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Aud. vt.

9. TURN PIKE RECORD, 1885-1910. 1 vol.

Record of construction and maintenance of turnpike roads, showing name, location, and cost and method of construction and repairs; and approval of supervisor and commissioners. Indexed alph. by names of roads. Hdw. 588 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Aud. vt.

II. COUNTY COUNCIL

In 1899 the legislature created the county council, to be known as "The Ripley County Council". (1) This council consists of seven members who are elected for a term of four years and who must be qualified voters and resident freeholders of the county. One member is elected from each of the four councilmanic districts by the voters of the county at large. (2) The council elects its president from its membership; and the auditor as its clerk is required to keep and preserve in his office a record of its proceedings. (3) The sheriff is required to execute the orders of the council. (4)

The regular annual meeting is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of September for the purposes of fixing the tax rate, of imposing the tax levy, and of making appropriations, and continues from day to day until its business is completed. Special meetings may be called by the auditor or a majority of the members. Sessions must be public. (5) Although a majority of the council constitutes a quorum, the passage of ordinances requires a majority of all members; (6) and extraordinary majorities are required by law in certain instances: a three-fourths vote to increase or insert an item in the budget estimates submitted by the county agencies through the auditor; (7) a two-thirds vote to make additional appropriations at special meetings. (8)

The power of fixing the tax rate for county purposes and for all purposes where it is not fixed by law and is required to be uniform

throughout the county, is vested exclusively in the council, likewise the power of making appropriations of money to be paid out of the county treasury. (9)

The council passes on all budget estimates submitted by county officials, (10) as well as emergency appropriations. (11)

The council has exclusive power to authorize the borrowing of money for the county and the issuing of bonds. (12) No sale or purchase by the county of real estate of the value of $1,000 or more is made without authorization by the council. (13)

The auditor, as clerk of the council, keeps a journal of its proceedings, and also keeps and preserves in his office its files and papers. (14)

The records are located in the courthouse.

---

(1) Acts 1899; Burns 26-501.
(2) Acts 1899; Burns 26-502, 26-504; Acts 1907; Burns 26-505.
(3) Acts 1899; 1931; Burns 26-507; Acts 1899; Burns 26-509.
(4) Acts 1899; Burns 26-510.
(5) Acts 1899, 1931; Burns 26-507; Acts 1899; Burns 26-508.
(6) Acts 1899; Burns 26-511.
(7) Acts 1899; Burns 26-520.
(8) Acts 1899, 1907, 1913, 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 26-521.
(9) Acts 1899; Burns 26-515, 26-520.
(10) Acts 1899; Burns 26-520.
(11) Acts 1899, 1907, 1913, 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 26-521.
(12) Acts 1899, 1912, 1929; Burns 26-532.
(13) Acts 1899; Burns 26-534.
(14) Acts 1899; Burns 26-509.

10. COUNTY COUNCIL RECORD, 1899--. 1 vol.

Minutes of the meetings of the council on appropriation ordinances, showing date; allowances for budgets, road repairs, bridge repairs, and other expenditures; and signatures of council numbers. No index. 1899-1934 hdw., 1934-- typed. 580 pp. 18 x 13 x 3.

III. CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

The clerk of the circuit court, commonly referred to as "county clerk", is a constitutional officer, elected for a four-year term, and not entitled to hold office for more than eight years in any twelve-year period. (1)

Prior to the Constitution of 1851, the office of clerk existed by virtue of the Constitution of 1816. (2) The inception date of this office in Ripley County is 1818, the organization date of the county.

The clerk of the circuit court is required to keep a set of dockets and records for the court. (3) He also serves, by statutory provisions, as clerk of all county courts.

In addition to his court duties, numerous other duties are imposed upon the clerk by statute. He serves ex officio as registration officer for the county (4) and as member and clerk of the county election boards. (5)

Other important duties of the clerk are the issuance of marriage licenses; (6) professional licenses, such as physicians', (7) dentists', (8) and optometrists'; (9) hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses; (10) business licenses, such as poultry dealers' (11) and junk dealers'; (12) and, upon order of the circuit judge, permits to carry small firearms. (13) He approves, files, and keeps a record of the bonds of county and township officers, unless other provision is made by law, (14) and of notaries. (15) He is required to keep a register of trained nurses (16) and a record

of certificates of firms and partnerships, doing business under any name, designation, or title other than the real names of their members, (17) and he also records many legal instruments. (18)

The clerk is required to preserve in his office all records and writings appertaining to his official duties, to indorse the time of filing of all papers, and in addition to the records mentioned above, to keep all necessary judges', appearance, bar, judgment, and execution dockets; order and final record books; a complete record of all causes involving title to land, of all criminal causes for felony, and of all other cases upon request; (19) a cash book; (20) and a fee register. (21) Other records are specifically provided for by the laws assigning to him the duties outlined above.

All the records are located in the courthouse.

---

(1) Const., art. 6, sec. 2; 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-2701.
(2) Const. 1816, art. 5, sec. 8.
(3) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-2703.
(4) Acts 1933, 1935; Burns, 1937 suppl., 29-306.
(5) Acts 1905, 1927; Burns 29-1401; Acts 1915, 1917; Burns 29-504; Acts 1899; Burns 29-1002.
(6) Acts 1852; Burns 44-201.
(7) Acts 1897, 1899; Burns 63-1302.
(8) Acts 1913, 1931, 1935; Burns, 1937 suppl., 63-504.
(9) Acts 1907, 1935; Burns, 1937 suppl., 63-1011.
(10) Acts 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 11-1403.
(11) Acts 1917, 1929, 1932 (Spc. Sess.); Burns 49-802.
(12) Acts 1905; Burns 42-703.
(13) Acts 1935, 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 10-4733.
(14) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-105; Acts 1857; Burns 49-124; 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-2706.
(15) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1855; Burns 49-3503.
(16) Acts 1905, 1913, 1931; Burns 63-903.
(17) Acts 1909; Burns 50-201, 50-202.
(18) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-2706.
(19) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-2706.

(20) Acts 1879 (Spc. Sess.); Burns 49-2722.

(21) Acts 1879 (Spc. Sess.); Burns 49-2723.

Official Bonds
(See also entries 194-96)

County

11. REGISTER OF OFFICIAL BONDS, 1854--. 5 vols. (1-2, and B-D).

Record of bonds posted by officials, showing date, names of officials and sureties, dates of qualification and installation, term of office, and amount and conditions of bond. Indexed alph. by names of officials. Hdw. 300 pp. 18 x 12 x 1½. 3 vols., 1854-1910, 2nd. floor stg. rm.; 2 vols., 1896--, Clk. off.

12. OFFICIAL BOND INDEX, 1888-1911. 1 vol.

Index to official bond records, showing names of sureties and officials bonded; nature, amount, and date of bond; and volume and page numbers of bond record. Indexed alph. by names of officials. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 13 x 2. 2nd. floor stg. rm.

Township

13. RECORD OF JUSTICE'S AND CONSTABLE'S BOND, 1882--. 2 vols. (2-3).

Record of bonds posted by township officials, showing date; names of official, office, and sureties; amount and conditions of bond; and signatures of principals. Indexed alph. by names of officials. Hdw. 522 pp. 16 x 12 x 2. 1 vol., 1882-1935, Clk. off.; 1 vol., 1908--, Clk. vt.

Miscellaneous

14. NOTARY PUBLIC BOND RECORD, 1878--. 2 vols. (1-2).

Title varies: Notarial Bond Record.

Record of bonds posted by notaries public, showing names of notary and sureties, term of office, and amount and conditions of bond. Indexed alph. by names of notaries. Hdw. 448 pp. 16 x 12 x 2. Clk. vt.

Licenses

Marriage (see also entry 226)

15. MARRIAGE RECORD, 1818--. 20 vols. (1-20). Title varies: Marriage Book.

Record of marriages, showing names, ages, birthplaces, color, occupations, and addresses of bride and groom; names of parents; and family history. Indexed alph. by names of grooms. Hdw. 400 pp. 16 x 12 x 2. 19 vols., 1818-1933, Clk. vt.; 1 vol., 1936--, Clk. off.

16. RECORD OF MARRIAGE AFFIDAVITS, 1881-1906. 1 vol.

Record of affidavits given to obtain marriage licenses, showing date of affidavit, and signatures of applicants. No index. Hdw. 320 pp. 14 x 9 x 2. Clk. off.

Professional

17. PHYSICIAN'S LICENSE RECORD, 1885--. 4 vols. (1,1, 1-2).

Record of licenses issued to physicians practicing in county,

showing name and address of applicant, college record and diploma, and date of license. Indexed alph. by names of physicians. Hdw. 360 pp. 18 x 13 x 2. Clk. vt.

18. DENTIST'S LICENSE RECORD, 1905--. 1 vol.

Record of licenses issued to dentists, showing name, address, age, and experience of applicant; and college attended. Indexed alph. by names of applicants. Hdw. 240 pp. 16 x 11 x 1½. Clk. off.

19. OPTOMETRY RECORD, 1907-26. 1 vol.

Record of optometrist licenses, showing dates of graduation and license; and name, address, and experience of optometrists. Indexed alph. by names of opticians. Hdw. 107 pp. 14 x 9 x ½. Clk. vt.

Business

20. RECORD OF APPLICATION FOR SIRES' LICENSE, 1890-1910. 1 vol.

Record of applications for sires' licenses, showing name and residence of owner; and name, birth date, registry number, breeding, and pedigree of sire. Indexed alph. by names of owners. Hdw. 320 pp. 18 x 12 x 1½. 2nd. floor stg. rm.

Hunting and Fishing

21. REGISTER OF HUNTER'S LICENSE, 1922--. 5 vols. (1, 3-6). Vol. 2, missing.

Record of hunting and fishing licenses issued, showing date; name, age, sex, color, and personal description of applicant; and clerk's signature. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 12 x 9 x 1. Clk. off.

Certificates

22. PATENT RIGHT RECORD, 1892-1911. 1 vol.

Record of patent applications filed, showing name of inventor, description of device, and date of application. Indexed alph. by names of applicants. Hdw. 586 pp. 16 x 12 x 2. 2nd floor stg. rm.

23. RECORD OF PHYSICIANS AND ACCOUCHEURS, 1881-1901. 1 vol.

Record of licenses issued to physicians and midwives, showing name, address, and qualifications of applicant; and date of registry. Indexed alph. by names of registrants. Hdw. 250 pp. 14 x 9 x 1½. 2nd. floor stg. rm.

Receipts and Disbursements

24. CLERK'S DAILY BALANCE BOOK AND CASH STATEMENT, Jan. 1-Feb. 3, 1913. 1 vol.

Record of daily receipts, disbursements, and balances, showing previous balance, names of payer and payee, funds credited or debited, amounts of receipts and disbursements, and current balance. No index. Hdw. 480 pp. 11 x 10 x 2. Clk. off.

25. CASH BOOK, RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS, 1924--. 2 vols. (2-3).

Record of cash transactions, showing names of payer and fund, amount, and balance at close of day. No index. Hdw. 325 pp. 18 x 18 x 2. 1 vol., Clk. off.; 1 vol., Clk. vt.

26. ATTORNEYS' RECEIPTS, 1882-1904. 1 vol.

Record of fees paid to prosecuting attorney, showing date, number,

and amount of receipt; name of prosecutor; and title of cause prosecuted. Arr. chron. Hdw. 320 pp. 16 x 12 x 1½. 2nd. floor stg. rm.

IV. RECORDER

The recorder is a constitutional officer elected for a term of four years and is required to post bond. (1) No person is eligible to hold the office of recorder for more than eight years in any twelve-year period. (2)

Prior to the Constitution of 1851, the office of recorder existed by virtue of the Constitution of 1816, (3) The inception date of this office in Ripley County is 1818, the organization date of the county.

The title of this officer describes his functions: To make and preserve a public record of legal documents which by law he is bound to record, for both county officials and private persons. (4) Of the many kinds of instruments recorded the more important are: Deeds, mortgages, and apprentices' indentures, (5) satisfactions, cancelations, and assignments of any kind, (6) mechanics' liens, (7) and leases. (8)

Other documents of which the recorder is required to keep a record are: Articles of incorporation filed in his office, (9) certificates of admission for foreign corporations to do business in Indiana, (10) cemetery deeds,(11) cemetery associations, (12) farm names, (13) and chattel mortgages. (14)

The forms and methods to be used by the recorder are described in detail in the statutes. In addition to the records enumerated above, he must keep a fee book and a cash book, and enter therein as received, all money received by his office.(15) He is also required to

index his records, both in each volume and in complete or general indexed. (16)

All the records are located in the courthouse.

---

(1) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1901; Burns 3201.
(2) Const., art. 6, sec. 2.
(3) Const. 1816, art. 11, sec. 10.
(4) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1885; Burns 49-3205.
(5) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-3210.
(6) Acts 1905; Burns 49-3203.
(7) Acts 1900; Burns 48-703.
(8) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1875, 1913, 1921, 1932; Burns 56-119.
(9) Acts 1929; Burns 25-219.
(10) Acts 1929; Burns 25-305.
(11) Acts 1925; Burns 21-223.
(12) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 25-1320.
(13) Acts 1913; Burns 49-3220.
(14) Acts 1935; Burns, 1937 suppl., 51-510.
(15) Acts 1885; Burns 49-1401.
(16) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-3200, 49-3217 to 49-3220; 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1855; Burns 49-3216.

Deeds, Titles, and Grants

27. DEED RECORD, 1818--. 111 vols. (A-Z,27-111). Record of deeds, showing date, names of grantee and grantor, description and location of property, and amount. Indexed alph. by names of grantees and grantors. 1818-1910, hdw.; 1910--, typed. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recr. off.

28. GENERAL INDEX OF DEEDS, 1818--. 26 vols. (1-13,1-13). Index to deeds, showing names of grantor and grantee, and volume and page numbers. Indexed alph. by names of grantees and grantors. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recr. vt.

29. ENTRY OF DEEDS, 1870--. 4 vols. (2-5). Title varies: Entry Book of Deeds.

Register of deeds recorded, showing date, names of grantor and grantee, description and location of property, and volume and folio numbers. Indexed alph. by names of grantors. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recr. vt.

30. RIPLEY COUNTY CEMETERY, 1925--. 1 vol.

Record of deeds to cemetery lots, showing date, lot number, name of owner, and location. Arr. by lot nos. Typed. 400 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recr. vt.

31. SHERIFF'S DEED RECORD, 1864--. 4 vols. (1-4).

Record of sheriff's certificates of sale, showing date, cause number, names of plaintiff and defendant, description of property, and consideration. Indexed alph. by names of grantors. 1864-1934, hdwd; 1934--, typed. 550 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recr. vt.

For sheriff's sales records, see entry 131.

32. SHERIFF'S DEED RECORD ON DECREE, 1869-97. 2 vols. (1-2).

Record of deeds to property sold by sheriff on court order, showing date; names of plaintiff, defendant, purchaser, and attorney; description of property; nature of complaint; proceedings; decisions; and purchase price. Indexed alph. by names of mortgagers. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recr. vt.

33. TAX TITLE DEED RECORD, 1860--. 3 vols. (1-3).

Record of deeds of property sold for taxes, showing date, name of owner, description and location of property, and amount of sale.

Indexed alph. by names of grantors. Hdw. 400 pp. 18 x 13 x 2. Recr. vt.

For tax sales records, see entry 184.

34. QUIET TITLE RECORD, 1911--. 1 vol.
Record of real estate titles quieted by court action, showing date, cause number, names of plaintiff and defendant, proceedings, and decision. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiffs. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recr. vt.

Mortgages, Assignments, and Releases

Real Estate

35. MORTGAGE RECORD, 1840--. 56 vols. (1-56).
Record of mortgages, showing date, amount, and terms of mortgage; names of mortgagor and mortgagee; and description and location of property. Indexed alph. by names of mortgagors. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recr. vt.

36. GENERAL INDEX OF MORTGAGES, 1881--. 10 vols. (1-9, 1-9.)
Index to mortgages, showing date, names of mortgagee and mortgagor, and volume and folio of record. Indexed alph. by names of mortgagors and mortgagees. 1881-1910, hdw.; 1910--, typed. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recr. off.

37. ENTRY BOOK OF MORTGAGES, 1958--. 3 vols. (2-4).
Record of mortgages left for recording and uncalled for, showing date recorded, names of mortgagor and mortgagee, type of mortgage,

description of property, and amount. Indexed alph. by names of mortgagors. Hdw. 300 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recr. vt.

Chattels

38. CHATTEL MORTGAGE MINUTE BOOK, 1935--. 1 vol.
Record of chattel mortgages, showing dates of recording and maturity, number of instrument, names of mortgagor and mortgagee, description of property, and amount. Indexed alph. by names of mortgagors. Hdw. 200 pp. 18 x 13 x 2. Recr. vt.

39. CHATTEL MORTGAGE RECORD, 1880-1935. 18 vols. (1-18).
Record of chattel mortgages, showing date, mortgage number, names of mortgagor and mortgagee, description of chattels, and amount. Indexed alph. by names of mortgagors. 1880-1910, hdw.; 1910-35, typed. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recr. vt.

40. GENERAL INDEX OF CHATTEL MORTGAGES, 1935--. 2 vols.(1,1).
Chattel mortgage index, showing date, names of mortgagor and mortgagee, description of property, and volume and folio numbers. Indexed alph. by names of mortgagees and mortgagors. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recr. vt.

School Fund (see also entries 142, 188-92)

41. SCHOOL FUND MORTGAGE RECORD, 1855--. 7 vols. (1-7).
Title varies: Record of School Fund Mortgages.
Record of loans made from surplus school funds, showing date, names of mortgagor and mortgagee, location and description of property, and amount of mortgage. Indexed alph. by names of mortgagees. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recr. vt.

42. SCHOOL FUND MORTGAGE, (Index), 1855--. 7 vols. (1-7). Index to school fund mortgages, showing date, names of mortgagor and mortgagee, description of property, and volume and folio numbers. Indexed alph. by names of mortgagees. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recr. vt.

Assignments and Releases

43. SATISFACTION, CANCELLATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF MORTGAGE, 1905--. 2 vols. (1-2).

Record of mortgages satisfied, canceled, or assigned, showing date, names of mortgagor and mortgagee, amount of mortgage, and volume and page number. Indexed alph. by names of mortgagors. Typed. 300 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recr. vt.

44. SATISFACTION ENTERED OF MORTGAGES, 1918--. 2 vols. (1-2). Record of mortgages satisfied, showing date and number of mortgage, names of mortgagor and mortgagee, and nature of satisfaction. Arr. by mortgage nos. Hdw. 150 pp. 14 x 9 x 1. Recr. vt.

Liens

45. RECORD OF MECHANIC'S LIENS, 1854-95. 1 vol.

Record of mechanics' liens, showing date, name of property owner, and lienor, nature of work, location of property, and amount of lien. Indexed alph. by names of lien holders. Hdw. 300 pp. 15 x 10 x 2. Recr. vt.

Register of Legal Instruments

46. RECORD OF WILLS AND ORDER OF COURT, 1891--. 2 vols. (1-2).

Record of wills after court hearing and decision, showing date of will and date entered for probate; names of testator, heirs, and executor; description and valuation of estate; court proceedings; and decision. Indexed alph. by names of estates. 1891-1932, hdw.; 1932--, typed. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Rcor. vt.

For other will records, see entry 109.

47. RECORD SOLDIERS' DISCHARGE, 1865--. 2 vols. (1-2). Title varies: Soldiers' Discharge Record.

Record of discharge of soldiers, showing date; serial number; names of soldier, regiment and company; time served; and nature of discharge. Indexed alph. by names of soldiers. Hdw. 400 pp. 18 x 13 x 2. Rcor. vt.

48. ROSTER OF THE WORLD WAR VETERANS OF RIPLEY COUNTY, not dated. 1 vol.

List of World War veterans and nurses, showing serial number, and date of enlistment. Arr. alph. by names of veterans. Hdw. 100 pp. 16 x 10 x 1. Rcor. vt.

49. POWERS OF ATTORNEY, 1875--. 2 vols. (2-3). Vol. 1, prior to 1875, missing. Title varies: Record of Powers of Attorney.

Record of appointments granting powers of attorney, showing date

granted; names of principal, agent, and attorneys; powers and particular performances granted; duration; and cause of revocation. Indexed alph. by names of grantors. 1875-1913, hdw.; 1913--, typed. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 2½. Recr. vt.

50. RECORD OF ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION, 1920--. 2 vols. (1-2).

Record of articles of incorporation of firms desiring to operate in county, showing date; names of firm, stockholders, and agent; capital investment; and nature of business. Indexed alph. by names of firms. 1920-1923, hdw.; 1923--, typed. 550 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recr. vt.

51. FOREST RESERVE RECORD, 1930--. 1 vol.

Record of land surveyed and set aside by the U. S. government, and agreed to by land owner, to be included in a forest reserve, for which landowner is allowed a tax assessment of one dollar per acre, showing date of survey, name of owner, description and location of property, and acreage. Indexed alph. by names of sections. Typed. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recr. vt.

52. OIL AND GAS LEASE RECORD, 1931-32. 4 vols. (1-4).

Record of land leased to gas company giving it privilege to drill for oil, showing date of lease, names of lessee and lessor, description of land, and term and amount of lease. Indexed alph. by names of lessors. Typed. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recr. vt.

53. REGISTER OF FARM NAMES, 1914-39, 1 vol.

Official record of farm names, showing date; names of farm and owner, and location and description of farm. Indexed alph. by names of farm owners. Typed. 550 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recr. vt.

54. REGISTER OF MARKS AND BRANDS, 1920-31. 1 vol.
Register of livestock marks and brands, showing date, name of owner, description of mark or brand, and fee. Indexed alph. by names of owners. Hdw. 150 pp. 12 x 9 x ½. Recr. vt.

55. FIELD NOTES IN RIPLEY COUNTY, 1855-1910. 1 vol.
Field notes of surveys made by surveyor, showing section and township lines, road boundaries, building lots, streets and alleys, name of surveyor, and date. Arr. by names of twps, and ranges, and shorounder chron. Hdw. 450 pp. 13 x 8 x 1. Recr. vt.

Miscellaneous Records

56. MISCELLANEOUS RECORD, 1857--. 7 vols. (2-8).
Vol. 1, prior to 1857, missing.
Record of miscellaneous instruments, such as liens, leases, quiet titles, registration of lodges, releases, instruments, and discharges of soldiers and sailors; showing date of record, nature of instrument, and names of parties. Indexed alph. by names of parties recording instruments. 1857-1927, hdw.; 1927--, typed. 800 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recr. vt.

Fee and Cash Books

57. RECORDER'S FEE AND CASH BOOK, 1904--. 6 vols. (1-5, 2).
Title varies: Recorder's Cash Book.
Record of daily cash receipts, showing date received, name of payer, type and number of instrument, and fee. No index. Hdw. 325 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recr. vt.

Maps

58. ATLAS OF RIPLEY COUNTY, 1884--. 1 vol.

An atlas given the 1870 and 1880 census of Ripley County, and description of various points of interest, also a series of maps showing boundary lines of county, townships, sections, towns, and cities. No index. Printed. 75 pp. 17 x 15 x ½. Recr. vt.

59. PLAT BOOK, 1820-88. 1 vol.

Plat maps of various divisions of county, showing date of plat; names of townships, towns, and cities; section and range lines; and numbers. Arr. by names of twps. Hdw. 150 pp. 23 x 15 x 3/4. Recr. vt.

V. CIRCUIT COURT

The circuit court was created by the Constitution of 1816, and re-created by the Constitution of 1851. (1) The judge of the circuit court is elected by the voters of the circuit and serves for a term of six years. (2) The State of Indiana, by mandate of the Constitution of 1816, (3) was at first divided into three circuits by the legislature, and since that time the number of circuits has been increased as the need arose until at present there are seventy-eight-- only fourteen circuits embrace two counties. (4) The eightieth circuit comprises Ripley County, (5) and the court is styled "Ripley Circuit Court". (6)

The court has original exclusive jurisdiction in law, equity, and criminal cases, actions for divorce, and settlement of decedents' estates and guardianships, except as concurrent jurisdiction has been conferred by law upon justices of the peace and the criminal and superior courts. It has such appellate jurisdiction as may be conferred by law. It has also jurisdiction in all other causes, matters, and proceedings, except where exclusive jurisdiction has been conferred upon some other court, board, or officer. (7)

In 1829 the legislature created a probate court which became effective in Ripley County upon its organization in 1818, the organization date of this county. This court had original and exclusive jurisdiction of all probate matters in the county. The

clerk of the circuit court acted as clerk for the probate court. (8)

By an act of 1852 the legislature abolished the probate court (9) and created a court of common pleas to serve Ripley County. The clerk of the circuit court acted as clerk of the court of common pleas. (10) The court of common pleas had original and exclusive jurisdiction of probate cases. (11)

The legislature in 1873 abolished the court of common pleas and transferred its jurisdiction to the circuit court; (12) and all the records of the common pleas court were transferred to the circuit court. (13)

The clerk of the circuit court is charged by statute with the duty of keeping and preserving the official records of the circuit court. (14).

All the records are located in the courthouse.

---

(1) Const. 1816, art. 5, secs. 1, 3, 7; Const., art. 7, sec. 1.
(2) Const., art. 7, sec. 9; Burns 4-301.
(3) Const. 1816, art. 5, sec. 3.
(4) Burns 4-332; Burns, 1937 suppl., 4-332.
(5) Acts 1911; Burns 4-332.
(6) Acts 1881 (Spc.Sess.); Burns 4-302.
(7) Const., art. 7, sec. 8; Acts 1881 (Spc. Sess.); Burns 4-303.
(8) Acts 1828-29, pt. 2, ch. 26, secs. 1-3, 5, 8.
(9) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852, ch. 8, sec. 43.
(10) Ibid., sec. 1, 3, 25.
(11) Ibid., sec. 4.
(12) Acts 1873, ch. 29, secs. 21, 79-80.
(13) Ibid., sec. 81.
(14) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-2706.

Civil Causes

60. LEGAL DOCUMENTS, 1822-1937. 1489 file boxes.
Record of files of legal documents pertaining to cases tried in court, including summons, d nials, subpenas, answers, and demurrers; showing date, names of plaintiff and defendant, cause, proceedings, and disposal of case in court. Arr. chron. 10 x 4 x 4. 235 boxes, 1900-1911, Clk. vt.; 1254 boxes, 1822-1935, 2nd floor stg. rm.

61. RECORD OF RECEIVERSHIP, 1812-26. 1 vol.
Record of proceedings in receivership, showing date, name of receiver, statement of asset and liabilities, proceedings in court, and appointment of receiver. Indexed alph. by names of receiverships. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Clk. vt.

For subsequent records, see entry 87.

Sanity Cases

62. INSANE R COM., 1880--. 6 vols. (1-4, 1-7). Vols. 5 and 6, 1900-21, missing.
Record of applications to commit insane persons to hospital, showing names of patient and petitioner, statements of witnesses and physicians, and order of court. Indexed alph. by names of patients. Hdw. 156 pp. 18 x 13 x 2½. 4 vols., 1880-1908, 2nd floor stg. rm.; 1 vol., 1921--, Clk. vt.; 1 vol., 1927--, Clk. off.

63. RECOMMITMENT TO INSANE HOSPITAL, 1897-1927. 1 vol.
Record of court orders for recommitment to insane hospital,

showing date of order, name of patient, receipt of hospital superintendent, and sheriff's return. Indexed alph. by names of patients. Hdw. 300 pp. 18 x 12 x 1½. Clk. off.

Naturalization Causes

64. DECLARATION OF INTENTION, 1851-1918. 3 vols. (1-3). Record of declarations of foreign born residents to become citizens of U. S. A., showing name, place of birth, age, and residence of applicant; date of arrival in United States; and sworn declaration. Indexed alph. by names of petitioners. Hdw. 450 pp. 16 x 10 x 2. Clk. vt.

65. NATURALIZATION RECORD, 1865-1930. 3 vols. (1, and 2 vols. not numbered).

Certified statements of clerk of court that petitioner has submitted proof and has taken oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and that he desires admittance to citizenship; showing name and present address of alien, and date and place of birth. Indexed alph. by names of applicants. Hdw. 350 pp. 11 x 16 x 1½. Clk. vt.

Civil Proceedings

Entry (see also entries 91-93)

66. ENTRY DOCKET, ISSUE DOCKET, AND FEE BOOK, 1912--. 10 vols. (1-10).

Entries, issues, and cost of cases. Contains: Entry Docket, Issue

Docket, and Fee Book, Civil, entry 67; Entry Docket, Issue Docket, and Fee Book, Criminal, entry 91. Arr. by cause nos. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 2½. Clk. vt.

67. ENTRY DOCKET, ISSUE DOCKET, AND FEE BOOK, (Civil), 1912--. In Entry Docket, Issue Docket and Fee Book, entry 66.

Calendar entries of court cases, showing date entries; names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys; case number; issues; proceedings; order book reference; writs issued; and list of fees, fines, and forfeitures.

68. ENTRY DOCKET, 1860-1919. 11 vols. (A-G, 1-2, 1-2). Calendar of cases in court. Contains: Entry Docket, Civil, entry 69; Entry Docket, Criminal, entry 92. Arr. by case nos. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 2½. 9 vols., 1860-1910, 2nd floor stg. rm.; 2 vols., 1911-19, Clk. off.

69. ENTRY DOCKET, (Civil), 1860-1919. In Entry Docket, Civil and Criminal, entry 68.

Calendar of court cases, showing date filed; names of plaintiff, defendant, witnesses, and attorneys; case number; and cause.

70. ISSUE DOCKET, 1929-97. 21 vols. (A-C, 1-4). Issues in court cases. Contains: Issue Docket, Civil, entry 71; Issue Docket, Criminal, entry 93. Arr. chron. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 13 x 2½. 2nd floor stg. rm.

For subsequent records, see entry 72.

71. ISSUE DOCKET, (Civil), 1855-57. In Issue Docket, entry 70.

Record of court issues, showing names of plaintiff and defendant, date filed, number and nature of cause, and proceedings of court.

Trial (See also entries 94-96, 127)

72. COURT DOCKET, 1841--. 80 vols.; 6 bundles. 1849-50, 1908-10, and 1910-31, missing.

Record of cases before court. Contains: Court Docket, Civil, entry 73; Court Docket, Criminal, entry 94. Vols., not indexed; bdls., arr. chron. Hdw. Bundles, 12 x 12 x 4; vols., 475 pp. 13 x 8 x 1½. 78 vols., 1841-1931, 2nd floor stg. rm.; 2 vols., 1931--, Clk. vt.; 6 bundles, 1932--, Clk. vt.

73. COURT DOCKET, (Civil), 1841--. In Court Docket Issue, Civil and Criminal, entry 72.

Record of cases before court, showing date filed; number; names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys; cause of action; pleadings; court proceedings; and minutes of judge.

74. ORDER BOOK, 1910--. 62 vols. (Lettering varies).

Court Orders in civil and criminal cases. Contains: Order Book, Civil, entry 75; Order Book, Criminal, entry 95. Arr. chron. 1910-1910, hdw.; 1910--, typed. 545 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Clk. vt.

75. ORDER BOOK, CIVIL, 1910--. In Order Book, entry 74.

Record of court orders in civil causes, showing date of order; names of plaintiff, defendant, witnesses, attorneys, and judge; cause

number, writs issued,; and record of interlocutory, general, and final orders.

76. GENERAL INDEX OF CIRCUIT COURT ORDER BOOK, 1879--. 2 vols. (1-2).

Index to court cases, Contains: General Index of Circuit Court Order Book, Civil, entry 77; General Index of Circuit Court Order Book, Criminal, entry 96. No index. Hdw. 790 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. 2nd floor stg. rm.

77. GENERAL INDEX OF CIRCUIT COURT ORDERSBOOKS, CIVIL, 1879. In General Index Circuit Court Order Book, entry 76. General index to court orders, showing title and number of cause, and number and page of order book. Arr. alph. by titles of causes. Hdw. 790 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. 2nd floor stg. rm.

Disposition (see also entries 97-99)

78. JUDGMENT DOCKET, 1820--. 14 vols. (Numbering and lettering varied).

Record of judgments rendered. Contains: Judgment Docket, Civil, entry 79; Judgment Docket, Criminal, entry 97. Indexed alph. by titles of action. Hdw. 275 pp. 18 x 13 x 2. 4 vols., 1820-50, bun rm., 2nd floor; 10 vols., 1850--, Clk. off.

79. JUDGMENT DOCKET, 1820--. In Judgment Docket, entry 78. Record of all judgments rendered by court, showing title of cause; name of judgment debtor; amounts of judgment, fees, and costs; date ratified; and number and page of order book. Arr. alph. by titles of causes. Hdw. 275 pp. 18 x 13 x 2 3/4. 4 vols., 1820-50, 2nd floor stg. rm.; 10 vols., 1850--, Clk. off.

80. GENERAL INDEX OF JUDGMENT DOCKET, 1879-. 1 vol.
Index to judgment docket, showing names of plaintiff and defendant, action taken, and volumes and pages of judgment docket and fee book. Indexed alph. by names of plaintiffs and defendants. Hdw. 750 pp. 18 x 13 x 3½. 2nd floor stg. rm.

81. COMPLETE RECORD, 1841-1908. 17 vols. (A-Q).
Complete history of cases. Contains: Complete Record, Civil, entry 82; Complete Record, Criminal, entry 98. Arr. alph. by names of plaintiffs and defendants. Hdw. 575 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Clk. off.

82. COMPLETE RECORD, CIVIL, 1841-1908. In Complete Record, entry 81.
Complete history of cases, showing dates of filing, judgment and execution; names of plaintiff, defendant, witnesses, attorneys, and judge; cause and case numbers; pleadings; issues; motions; proceedings; decrees; and final orders.

For subsequent records, see entry 75.

83. GENERAL INDEX OF COMPLETE RECORDS, 1854--. 9 vols.
Index to records. Contains: General Index of Complete Records and Partition Records, entry 84; General Index of Complete Records, Criminal, entry 99; General Index of Partition Records, entry 107. Arr. alph. by names of plaintiffs and defendants. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 2. 2nd floor stg. rm.

84. GENERAL INDEX OF COMPLETE RECORD, CIVIL, 1879--. In General Index of Complete Records, entry 83.
Index of all cases entered on complete records, showing names of

plaintiff and defendant, and volume and page of complete records. Arr. alph. by names of plaintiffs and defendants. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 2 3/4. 2nd floor stg. rm.

Executions (see also entries 128-32)

85. EXECUTION DOCKET, 1818--. 16 vols. (A-D,F-H,K-L,D,G, 1-5).

Record of judgments rendered, showing date, names of plaintiff and defendant, amount of judgment, name of judgment debtor, name of officer ordered to execute judgment, and officer's date of return. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 15 x 10 x 3. 1 vol., 1818-42, 2nd floor stg. rm.; 15 vols., 1842--, Clk. vt.

86. GENERAL INDEX OF EXECUTION DOCKETS, PROBATE, 1879. 1 vol.

General index, showing number of cause, names of plaintiff and defendant, cause of action, and volumes and pages of execution docket and of fee book. Arr. alph. by names of plaintiffs and defendants. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. 2nd floor stg. rm.

87. LIS PENDENS RECORD, SHERIFF'S CERTIFICATES, 1877--. 4 vols. (1, 1, 1-2).

Record of sheriff's certificates of sales by order of court, showing names of plaintiff and defendant, amount of judgment plus interest and costs, description of property sold, amount realized, and name of buyer. Indexed alph. by names of owners. Hdw. 575 pp. 18 x 13 x 2½. Clk. vt.

88. ORDER OF SALE DOCKET, 1895--. 2 vols. (1-2).
Record of sales by orders of court, showing date of issue; names of plaintiff and defendant; amounts of judgment, fees, and costs; description of property; proof of publication; amount of highest bid, and date of acceptance by court. Indexed alph. by names of owners. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 2½. Clk. vt.

Criminal Causes

Indictments

89. RECORD OF AFFIDAVITS FOR PROSECUTION, 1915--. 2 vols. (1-2).
Record of affidavits for criminal prosecution, showing date, names of plaintiff and defendant, charge, and signature of plaintiff. Indexed alph. by names of defendants. Hdw. 400 pp. 18 x 13 x 2½. Clk. vt.

90. RECORD OF INDICTMENTS, 1853-1905. 5 vols. (1-5).
Record of indictments, showing date returned; names of plaintiff, defendant, witnesses, jury foreman, and trial judge; true bill; description of crime; material facts; and signature of jury foreman. Indexed alph. by names of defendants. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 13 x 2½. 2nd floor stg. rm.

Criminal Proceedings

Entry (see also entries 66-71)

91. ENTRY DOCKET, ISSUE DOCKET, AND FEE BOOK, (Criminal), 1912--. In Entry Docket, Issue Docket, and Fee Book, entry 66.

Entries, issues, and costs in court cases, showing date entered; names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys; case number; issues; proceedings; Order Book reference; writs issued; and list of fines, fees, and forfeitures.

92. ENTRY DOCKET, (Criminal), 1860-1919. In Entry Docket, Civil and Criminal, entry 68.

Calendar of criminal cases in court, showing date filed; names of plaintiff, defendant, witnesses, and attorneys; cause; and case number.

93. ISSUE DOCKET (Criminal), 1839-97. In Issue Docket, entry 70.

Record of court issues in criminal cases, showing date filed; case number; nature of cause; names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys; pleadings; and proceedings of court.

Trial (see also entries 72-77,127)

94. COURT DOCKET, (Criminal), 1841--. In Court Docket, Civil and Criminal, entry 72.

Record of cases before court, showing date filed; case number; names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys; cause of action; pleadings; court proceedings; and minutes of judge.

95. ORDER BOOK,(Criminal), 1819--. In Order Book, entry 74.

Record of court orders in criminal cases, showing date of order; names of plaintiff, defendant, witnesses, attorneys, and judge; cause number; writs issued; and record of interlocutory, general, and final orders.

96. GENERAL INDEX OF CIRCUIT COURT ORDER BOOK, (Criminal) 1879. In General Index of Circuit Court Order Book, entry 76.

Index to court cases, showing date of filing; names of plaintiff, defendant, witness, attorneys, and judgment creditor and debtor; case number; and page and volume numbers of record.

Disposition (see also entries 78-84)

97. JUDGMENT DOCKET, (Criminal), 1820--. In Judgment Docket, entry 73.

Record of judgments rendered, showing date of judgment; names of plaintiff, defendant, attorneys, witnesses, and judgment debtor and creditor; decrees in judgment; writs of execution issued; sheriff's return; and satisfaction.

98. COMPLETE RECORD, (Criminal), 1841-1908. In Complete Record, entry 81.

Complete history of cases, showing dates of filing, judgment, and execution; names of plaintiff, defendant, jury foreman, witnesses, and attorneys; case number; pleadings; issues; motions; proceedings; decrees; and verdict.

99. GENERAL INDEX TO COMPLETE RECORDS, (Criminal), In General Index to Complete Records, and Partitions Record, entry 83.

Index to cases, showing date of filing; names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorneys; cause and case numbers; and page and volume numbers of record.

Probate Causes

The probate court of Ripley County was established in 1830, under a law of 1829, which placed probate matters in a separate court, consisting of one judge, elected by the voters of the county for a term of seven years. It had original and exclusive jurisdiction in matters relating to probate of wills; granting letters of administration; settlement of decedent's estates; appointment of guardians for minors and persons of unsound mind; and approval of bonds of guardians, administrators, and executors. (1)

The clerk of the circuit court acted as clerk of the probate court and was required to keep the records of the probate court separate from those of the circuit court. (2)

By an act of 1852 the legislature abolished the probate court (3) and created a court of common pleas for Ripley County. The clerk of the circuit court acted as clerk of the court of common pleas. (4) The court of common pleas had original and exclusive jurisdiction of probate causes. (5)

The legislature in 1873 abolished the court of common pleas and transferred its jurisdiction to the circuit court, (6) and all the records of the court of common pleas were transferred to the circuit court. (7)

---

(1) Acts 1828-29, pt. 2, ch. 26, secs. 1-2,5-,9.
(2) Ibid. sec. 3.
(3) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852, ch. 8, sec. 43.
(4) Ibid., sec. 1, 3, 25.
(5) Ibid., sec. 4.
(6) Acts 1873, ch. 29, secs. 21, 79-80.
(7) Ibid., sec. 81.

Estate Cases

100. GENERAL INDEX OF ESTATES, 1864-81. 1 vol.
Index to estates, showing title of estate; names of deceased, guardian abd award; date of letters; and volumes and pages of order book, fee book, and bond records. Indexed alph. by titles of estates. Hdw. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 2 3/4. 2nd floor stg. rm.

101. ADMINISTRATOR'S BONDS, OATHS, AND LETTERS, 1844--.
9 vols. (1-7, A, 1). Title varies: Administrator's Bonds; Administrator's Letters: Administrator's and Record.
Record of administrator's letters filed, and bonds posted by administrators and executors to qualify, showing date, names of applicant and sureties, title of estate, and amount and terms of bond. Indexed alph. by names of administrators or executors. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 13 x 2½. 6 vols., 1844-1913, 2nd floor stg. rm; 3 vols., 1910--, Clk. vt.

102. EXECUTOR'S BOND, OATH RECORD, 1861-85. 1 vol.
Record of bonds and oaths of executors, showing title of estate, names and addresses of executor and surety, and amount and terms of bond. Indexed alph. by titles of estates. Hdw. 350 pp. 16 x 12 x 1½. 2nd floor stg. rm.

103. ADMINISTRATORS', EXECUTORS', AND GUARDIANS' BOND FOR THE SALE OF REAL ESTATE, 1854-78. 1 vol.
Record of additional bonds filed by administrator to sell real estate, showing title of estate; names of administrator, executor or guardian, and sureties; and amount and terms of bond. Indexed alph. by titles of estates. Hdw. 500 pp. 16 x 12 x 2½. 2nd floor stg. rm.

104. COMMISSIONERS' BOND RECORD TO SELL REAL ESTATE, 1890-95. 1 vol.

Record of bonds posted by master commissioners appointed by court to sell real estate, showing date, title of estate, names and addresses of commissioners and sureties, and amount and term of bond. Indexed alph. by titles of estates. Hdw. 269 pp. 18 x 13 x 1 3/4. Clk. vt.

105. RECORD OF INVENTORY, 1870--. 12 vols. (1-12).

Record of inventories made in estate cases, showing date of inventory, title of estate, itemized list of property, names of persons taking inventory and appraisers, total value, approval, and certification. Indexed alph. by titles of estates. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 13 x 2½. 5 vols., 1870-1908, 2nd floor, stg. rm.; 7 vols., 1908--, Clk. vt.

106. PARTITION RECORD, 1854--. 8 vols. (1-8). Title varies: Complete Record in Partition.

Record of court proceedings in cases of partition suits, showing names of plaintiff and defendant, description of real estate involved, court proceedings, and final decision. Indexed alph. by titles of causes. 575 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Clk. vt.

For subsequent records, see entry 115.

107. GENERAL INDEX PARTITION RECORD, 1854--. 8 vols. (1-8). In General Index of Complete Records and Partition Records, entry 83.

Index to all cases in partition records, showing names of plaintiff

and surveyed, and volume and page number of partition record.

108. RECORD OF SALE BILLS, 1870--. 6 vols. (1-4,8-4).
Record of personal property belonging to estates, sold at public auction, showing list of articles, amount of sales, name of purchaser, and total amount realized. Indexed alph. by titles of estates. Hdw. 600 pp. 10 x 13 x 2½. 4 vols., 1870-95, 2nd floor stg. rm.; 2 vols., 1895--, Clk. vt.

109. WILL RECORD, 1818--. 10 vols. (A-J).
Record of wills filed in court, showing date probated; terms of will; and names of testator, legatees, witnesses, and record clerk. Indexed alph. by names of testators. 1818-1922, hdw.; 1922--, typed. 550 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Clk. vt.

For other will records, see entry 46.

Guardianship Cases

110. GUARDIANS' BOND RECORD, 1857--. 4 vols. (1-4).
Record of bonds posted by guardians, showing date, names of guardian and of sureties, and amount and terms of bond. Indexed alph. by names of guardians. Hdw. 450 pp. 16 x 12 x 2. 2 vols., 1857-1905, 2nd floor stg. rm.; 2 vols., 1905--, Clk. vt.

Probate Proceedings

111. GENERAL ENTRY CLAIM AND ALLOWANCE DOCKET, 1876--.
11 vols. (1-7, 1-4).
Record of claims entered against estates, and allowed by court,

showing date; title of estate; names of administrator, claimant, and sureties; amount of bond, and amount of claim. Indexed alph. by names of estates. Hdw. 300 pp. 18 x 19 x 3. 2 vols., 1870-97, 2nd floor stg. rm.; 8 vols., 1897-1918, 1917--, Clk. off.; 1 vol., 1913-16, Clk. vt.

112. GUARDIANSHIP DOCKET AND FILE BOOK, 1897--. 3 vols. (1-2,2). Title varies: Guardianship Docket.

Record of guardianships in estates cases, showing names of guardian, wards, and sureties; amount of bond; appraisal of estate; and total amount due ward. Indexed alph. by names of estates. Hdw. 300 pp. 18 x 18 x 3. 2 vols., Clk. off.; 1 vol., Clk. vt.

113. ADMINISTRATOR, EXECUTOR, AND GUARDIAN'S DOCKET, 1857-60. 3 vols.

Record of periodic reports of executors, administrators, and guardians; showing title of estate; names of executor, administrator, or guardian; heirs, wards, and sureties; accounting; and court proceedings. Indexed alph. by names of administrators or guardians. Hdw. 460 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. 2nd floor stg. rm.

114. APPEARANCE DOCKET, 1855-1919. 7 vols. (1, 1-6).

Record of persons appraising in court in estate cases, showing names of estate, claimant, and administrator; date of last settlement; claims filed; nature of claim; amounts; and proceedings of court. Indexed alph. by names of estates. Hdw. 380 pp. 18 x 18 x 3. 4 vols., 1870-1907, 2nd floor stg. rm.; 3 vols., 1855-89, 1900-19, Clk. vt.

115. ORDER BOOK-PROBATE, 1841--. 46 vols. (1-46, 3-1).
Record of court orders, showing date and term of court, title of estate, names of administrator, appraisement for inheritance tax, allowance of claims and expenditures, and fees. Indexed alph. by names of defendants. 1841-1910, hdw.; 1910--, typed. 600 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Clk. vt.

Juvenile Causes

116. ORDER BOOK, 1914--. 1 vol.
Record of orders and proceedings of court in juvenile causes, showing date filed, number of cause, names of plaintiff and defendant, and order of court disposing of case. Indexed alph. by names of juveniles. Hdw. 300 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Clk. vt.

Miscellaneous Records

Bonds

117. APPEARANCE BOND RECORD, 1927--. 1 vol.
Record of bonds posted, assuring appearance of defendant in court, showing date, amount and condition of bond, names of sureties, and approval of judge. Indexed alph. by names of sureties. Hdw. 600 pp. 16 x 12 x 2½. Clk. main vt.

118. SUPREME COURT APPEAL BOND RECORD, 1878-1925. 1 vol.
Record of appeal bonds, showing date of trial, amount and conditions of bond, names of defendant and sureties, and term of court. Indexed alph. by names of applicants. Hdw. 622 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Aud. vt.

119. OLD BOND, 1884--. 3 file boxes.

Original bonds retired after expiration, showing number of bond, date of issue, amount and conditions, names of defendants and sureties, and date of expiration. No index. 11 x 5 x 4½. Clk. vt.

Fee and Cash Records

120. REGISTER OF FEES AND FUNDS HELD IN TRUST, 1906--. 2 vols. (1-2).

Record of fees and funds held in trust by court, showing date received, title of cause, names of plaintiff and defendant, amounts received and disbursed, and number and page of record. Indexed alph. by names of wards. Rdw. 320 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. 1 vol., Clk. off.; 1 vol., Clk. vt.

121. FEE BOOK, CRIMINAL, 1851--. 40 vols. (A-Z, 1-3, 1-2, 4-10). 1895-97, 1904-8, missing. Title varies: Register of Fees.

Register of fees in criminal causes, showing date, names of plaintiff and defendant, number of cause, nature of charge, date of return, volume and page of order book, and dates received and disbursed. Indexed alph. by names of defendants. 330 pp. 18 x 13 x 2. 32 vols., 1851-95, 2nd floor stg. rm.; 1 vol., 1897-1904, Clk. off.; 7 vols., 1908--, Clk. vt.

122. FEE BOOK, CIVIL, 1890-1912. 9 vols. (BB-JJ).

Record of fees paid in civil causes, showing number of cause; names of plaintiff and defendant ; date of filing complaint; amount of judgment, fees, and costs; and volume and page of judgment docket.

Arr. by cause nos. Hdw. 570 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Clk. vt.

123. FEE BOOK NO. 1, ESTATES, 1908-1919. 4 vols. (1-4).
Record of fees collected in probate causes, showing date, names of estate and administrator, cause number, letters issued, place recorded, kind of fee, and amount collected. Indexed alph. by names of estates. Hdw. 300 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Clk. off.

124. FEE BOOK,(Guardianship), 1905-1912. 1 vol.
Record of fees charged in guardianship cases, showing guardianship number; names of guardian, ward, and sureties; date guardian appointed; amount of guardian bond; amount of appraisement; and clerk and court fees. No index. Hdw. 300 pp. 16 x 12 x 2½. Clk. vt.

125. CLERK'S REGISTER OF COUNTY AND STATE FUNDS, 1877-87, 1 vol.
Record of all amounts received from fines, forfeitures, and other funds in which the state and county have proportionate interest; showing date, amount apportioned, name of fund, and date paid. Arr. chron. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. 2nd floor stg. rm.

126. JURY REGISTER, 1881-83. 2 vols.
Record of persons chosen for jury duty, showing names and addresses, regular or called jury, days served, mileage, and amount of fees. Indexed alph. by names of jurors. Hdw. 400 pp. 16 x 12 x 1½. 2nd floor stg. rm.

The court of common pleas, consisting of one judge elected for a term of four years, (1) was established by an act of 1852, effective in Ripley County in 1853. (2)

The court had jurisdiction in matters relating to probate of wills and to appointment of guardians for persons of unsound mind and other disabilities; in matters relating to executors and administrators; (3) in civil matters ranging from fifty to one thousand dollars, except in cases of slander, libel, breach of marriage contract, action on an official bond, and where the title of real estate was in issue; (4) in civil matters exceeding one thousand dollars relating to judgments confessed by consent of both parties or in an agreed case; (5) and criminal jurisdiction in cases not amounting to felony, except those over which justices of the peace had jurisdiction, (6) and in felony cases not punishable by death providing that the accused voluntarily agreed to trial and in any criminal case on change of venue from the circuit court. (7)

The clerk of the circuit court acted as clerk of the court of common pleas (8) and was required to keep the records of the court of common pleas separate from the records of the circuit court. (9)

In 1873, the legislature abolished the court of common pleas and transferred its jurisdiction to the circuit court, (10) and all the records of the court of common pleas were transferred to the circuit court. (11)

All the records are located in the courthouse, and are, with other court records, in the custody of the clerk of the circuit court.

---

(1) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852, pt. 1, ch. 8, sec. 1.
(2) Ibid., sec. 3.
(3) Ibid., sec. 9.
(4) Ibid., sec. 11.
(5) Ibid., sec. 12.
(6) Ibid., sec. 14.
(7) Ibid., sec. 17.
(8) Ibid., sec. 23.
(9) Ibid., sec. 25.
(10) Acts 1873, ch. 29, secs. 79-80.
(11) Ibid., sec. 81.

Court Proceedings (see also series 83-84, 91-99)

127. ORD R Book, 1852-73. 9 vols. (1-9).

Record of all orders issued by common pleas court, showing date; term of court; names of plaintiff, defendant, and executors; returns on judgment; and proceedings of court. Arr. chron. Hdw. 575 pp. 18 x 13 x 2½. Clk. vt.

VI. SHERIFF

The sheriff is a constitutional officer elected for a term of two years. He must give a bond to insure the faithful performance of duty, and is required to take the usual oath of office. (1) No person is eligible to hold the office of sheriff for more than four years in any period of six years. (2) Prior to the Constitution of 1851, the office of sheriff functioned by virtue of the Constitution of 1816. (3) The inception date of this office in Ripley County is 1816, the organization date of the county.

The sheriff is the conservator of peace within Ripley County. He is required to arrest without process all persons, who within his view commit any crime or misdemeanor, and hold them in custody during investigation of the cause of such arrest; to suppress all breaches of the peace, with authority to call to his aid the power of the county; to pursue and commit to jail all felons; to maintain and preserve order in the courts of the county except justice of the peace courts. He also maintains the jail and takes care of the prisoners confined in it. (4) It is his duty to protect persons in danger of possible lynchings. (5) He makes arrests of all persons on warrants issued upon indictments and affidavits, and commits them to jail, and also serves summons in cases of misdemeanor. (6)

As a court officer of Ripley County he is required to make service of all process. (7) He sells mortgaged property on foreclosure proceedings; (8) executes deeds to real estate sold

on executions; (9) conveys persons committed to state charitable, correctional, or penal institutions; (10) and attends sessions and executes the orders of the county council (11) and the board of commissioners. (12)

All the records are located in the courthouse.

---

(1) Const., art. 6, sec. 2; 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1937; Burns 1937 suppl., 49-2001.
(2) Const., art. 6, sec. 2.
(3) Const. 1816, art. 4, sec. 25.
(4) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-2002.
(5) Acts 1905; Burns 10-3810.
(6) Acts 1905; 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 9-1601.
(7) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-2003.
(8) Acts 1881 (Spc. Sess.); Burns 3-1219.
(9) Acts 1881 (Spc. Sess.); Burns 2-4101.
(10) Acts 1905; Burns 9-2202.
(11) Acts 1899; Burns 26-810.
(12) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 26-811.

Executions and Reports
(See also entries 85-88)

128. SHERIFF'S DOCKET, 1859--. 31 vols. (1, 6, 7, 12, and 27 vols. not numbered).

Record of arrests, showing dates of arrest and return; case number; names of plaintiff, defendant, attorneys, witnesses, and jurors; and cause of action. Indexed alph. by names of defendants. Hdw. 500 pp. 16 x 12 x 2. 19 vols., 1859-99, 2nd. floor stg. rm.; 12 vols., 1876--, Shf. off.

129. SHERIFF'S COURT DOCKET, Civil, Sept.-Nov. 1908. 1 vol.

Record of civil cases, showing date; case number; names of plaintiff, defendant, and attorney; date of sheriff's return; and amounts of fees and costs. Arr. by case nos. Hdw. 81 pp. 16 x 11 x ½. Shf. off.

130. SHERIFF'S EXECUTION AND FEE BILL DOCKET, 1876--.

1 vol.

Record of execution of court orders in judgment and issue cases, showing date filed; names of plaintiff, defendant, and judgment creditor and debtor; type of writ served; amounts of levy, judgment, and costs; and amount of returns made. Indexed alph. by names of defendants. Hdw. 575 pp. 18 x 12 x 3. Shf. off.

131. SHERIFF'S RECORD ORDER OF SALES, 1886--. 2 vols, (1, 1). Record of sales of real estate ordered by court, showing date; case number; names of plaintiff and defendant; and amounts of judgment, fees, and total cost. Indexed alph. by names of property owners. Hdw. Condition fair. 500 pp. 18 x 18 x 3. Shf. off.

For sheriff's deed records, see entry 81.

132. SHERIFF'S REGISTER OF FOREIGN WRITS, 1903--.

2 vols. (1-2).

Record of writs from other counties, showing dates received and returned, date and nature of writ, names of county and person served, and total costs. Indexed alph. by names of defendants. Hdw. 450 pp. 16 x 12 x 2. Shf. off.

133. JAIL REGISTER, 1869--. 2 vols.

Register of persons committed to jail, showing dates of commitment and release, name of prisoner, nature of offense, and term served. Indexed alph. by names of prisoners. Hdw. Condition fair. 500 pp. 16 x 12 x 2. Shf. off.

134. MILEAGE CLAIM RECORD, 1929--. 1 vol.
Record of mileage covered in transporting criminals to prison, showing case number, name of criminal, miles traveled, amount of costs, and date paid. Arr. by case nos. Hdw. 500 pp. 16 x 11 x 2. Shf. off.

Fee and Cash Records

135. SHERIFF'S CASH BOOK, 1886--. 2 vols. (1, 1).
Record of cash received and disbursed, showing date, source and amount of funds received or disbursed, funds debited or credited, and balance. Indexed alph. by names of defendants. Hdw. 534 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Shf. off.

136. SHERIFF'S FEE BOOK, 1894--. 4 vols. (1, 1, 3, and 4).
Record of fees received by sheriff, showing number, date, and nature of service; cause number; and amount of fee. No index. Hdw. 400 pp. 16 x 12 x 2. Shf. off.

VII. CORONER

The coroner is a constitutional officer elected for two years without restriction on reelection. (1) He is required to post bond not exceeding five thousand dollars nor less than one thousand dollars. (2) The office was created before 1851 by virtue of the Constitution of 1816. (3) The inception date of this office in Ripley County is 1818, the organization date of the county.

The coroner is required to investigate deaths by violence, by accident, and of suspicious nature, and to determine the cause and manner of death. (4) He holds inquests without a jury, (5) and may subpena witnesses and employ a physician to make a post-mortem examination, (6) draws up his verdict, (7) and files it with a report, giving a minute description of the deceased and valuables found upon him, with the clerk of the circuit court. (8) He is a peace officer with the same powers as the sheriff, (9) and acts as sheriff in event of absence, vacancy, personal interest, or incapacity of that officer, (10) and serves warrants on the sheriff if necessary. (11)

The records are located in the courthouse.

---

(1) Const. 1851, art. 6, sec. 2.
(2) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1933; Burns 49-2901.
(3) Const. 1816, art. 4, sec. 25.
(4) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1871, 1879 (Spc. Sess.); Acts 1935; Burns, 1937 suppl., 49-2904.
(5) Acts 1879 (Spc. Sess.); Burns 49-2905.
(6) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-2906.
(7) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1879 (Spc. Sess.); Burns 49-2908.
(8) Ibid.; Burns 49-2909.
(9) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1933; Burns 49-2901.
(10) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-2902.
(11) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-2903.

137. RECORD OF CORONER'S INQUESTS, 1905--. 2 vols. (1-2). Coroner's record of inquests, showing date of inquest, name and description of deceased, cause of death, verdict, names of witnesses, and amount of fees. Indexed alph. by names of deceased. Hdw. 616 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Clk. vt.

VIII. PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

The prosecuting attorney is a constitutional officer, (1) elected in each judicial circuit for a term of two years. (2) He is required to post bond to be approved by the judge of the circuit court and filed with the clerk. (3)

Prior to the Constitution of 1851, the office of prosecutor existed by virtue of an act of 1831. A circuit prosecutor was chosen by a joint ballot of the senate and house of representatives. (4) The inception date of this office in Ripley County is 1831.

It is the duty of the prosecuting attorney to inquire into the commission of any felony or misdemeanor received on information. (5) He appears before the grand jury to furnish information relative to matters cognizable by it or upon any legal matter, and signs all indictments found, but is excluded from its deliberations. (6) He conducts all prosecutions for felonies and misdemeanors in Ripley County, all suits on forfeited recognizances, resists applications for changing names, protects interests of all persons of unsound mind, and superintends on behalf of the county or any of its trust funds, all suits in which the same may be interested or involved. (7) He is also required to resist undefended actions for divorce. (8)

The prosecuting attorney may take acknowledgments to deeds or other instruments in writing, administer oaths, protest notes and checks, take depositions of witnesses, and perform any duty now

conferred on a notary public. (9)

---

(1) Const., art. 7, sec. 11.
(2) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-2501.
(3) Ibid.; Burns 49-2502.
(4) Rev. Laws 1831, ch. 10, sec. 1.
(5) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-2503.
(6) Acts 1905; Burns 9-826.
(7) 2 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-2504.
(8) Acts 1873; Burns 3-1212.
(9) Acts 1919; Burns 49-2507.

No records could be found.

IX. ASSESSOR

The office of assessor was created by an act of 1891. (1) This officer is elected for a four-year term, there being no prohibition against successive terms. He must be a continuous resident freeholder of Ripley County for not less than four years prior to the date of his election, and post a five thousand dollar bond, with two or more good freehold sureties approved by the auditor, who also administers the oath of office. His work is under the direction of the state board of tax commissioners, and he may be removed by that board, after a hearing, for incompetency, neglect of duty, or misconduct in office. (2)

The office of assessor existed in Ripley County from 1841 to 1853 by virtue of an act of the legislature. (3) The inception date of the present office in Ripley County is 1891.

The duties of the assessor are: To examine carefully the tax duplicates, to instruct and advise the township assessors, to review their returns, to assess omitted real and personal property, to report to the state board any delinquencies of township assessors, to examine public records, (4) to set a value upon intangibles for taxation, (5) and to appraise estates for inheritance taxes. (6) He is ex officio member and president of the Ripley County board of review. (7)

The records are located in the courthouse.

---

(1) Acts 1871, ch. 99, sec. 112.
(2) Acts 1919, 1921; Burns 64-1101.
(3) Acts 1841, ch. 3, sec. 1.
(4) Acts 1919; Burns 64-1102.
(5) Acts 1933, 1935; Burns, 1937 suppl., 64-905.
(6) Acts 1919, 1921; Burns 64-1101; Acts 1931, 1933; Burns 6-2406.
(7) Acts 1919, 1920 (Spc. Sess.); Burns 64-1201.

No records could be found.

X. BOARD OF REVIEW

By virtue of an act of 1919, Ripley County has a board of review for the annual review of assessments and the equalization of the valuation of real and personal property. The board is composed of the assessor, treasurer, and auditor, ex officio, and two freeholders of opposite political parties, appointed annually by the judge of the circuit court. The assessor is president and the auditor is secretary of the board. (1)

Prior to 1891 the duty of equalizing tax assessments was performed by a board of equalization consisting of the commissioners with the addition of other members--in 1841 the auditor and the appraiser; (2) in 1881, four freeholders appointed by the circuit judge. (3) The law of 1891 superseded the latter act and created the board of review, composed of the treasurer, assessor, and auditor. (4) The act of 1919 reestablished the board, adding the two freeholder appointments to its membership. (5) The inception date of this board in Ripley County is 1891.

The board of review holds an annual meeting in June of each year. A majority constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business and may decide any question. (6) At its meetings the auditor submits for examination the assessment list of the county returned by the township assessors, and the county assessor reports all corrections and changes which in his judgment ought to be made, upon which the board acts but it may take further action upon its own motion. (7)

It is the duty of the board to inquire as to the valuation of property in the townships and any taxing unit, to make such changes as may be necessary, and to determine the amount to be added or deducted, in order to make a suitable equalization of valuation throughout the county. If the board shall find the aggregate assessment too high, too low, or unequal, it may set aside the assessment of the whole county, or of any township or taxing unit therein, and order a new assessment. (8)

The board also adjusts inequalities in the valuation of particular tracts or lots, corrects errors in the description and assessment of property, and passes upon each valuation in the township assessors' lists upon cause being shown or on its own motion. It hears complaints of owners of personal property. It makes a general review of assessment lists to discover omitted property and determines its assessment. (9) It assesses the capital stock and franchises of corporations in the county, except those assessed by the state board of tax commissioners, such as railroad, telephone, and telegraph companies. (10)

The auditor, as secretary, is required to keep full and accurate minutes of the proceedings of the board. The changes made by the board are entered in a separate column in the assessment lists. (11)

The records are located in the courthouse.

(1) Acts 1919, 1920 (Spc. Sess); Burns 64-1201.
(2) Acts 1841, ch. 1, sec. 13; 1 Rev. Stat. 1852, ch. 6, sec. 58.
(3) Acts 1881, ch. 96, sec. 129.
(4) Acts 1891, ch. 95, sec. 114.
(5) Acts 1919, 1920 (Spc. Sess.); Burns 64-1201.
(6) Acts 1919, 1920 (Spc. Sess.); Burns 64-1201.
(7) Ibid.
(8) Acts 1919; Burns 64-1205.
(9) Ibid.
(10) Acts 1919; Burns 64-724.
(11) Acts 1919, 1920 (Spc. Sess.); Burns 64-1201.

158. RECORD OF BOARD OF REVIEW, 1905--. 2 vols. (1-2).

Record of the proceedings of board of review, showing date of meeting, names of members present, nature of business transacted, and actions taken. Arr. chron. 1905-1919, 1924--, hdw.; 1919-24, typed. 600 pp. 16 x 12 x 2. Aud. vt.

XI. BOARD OF TAX ADJUSTMENT

The board of tax adjustment of Ripley County was established by the legislature in 1932 and consists of seven members.

By the act of 1933 the members of the board were one member of the county council, selected by the council, and six members appointed by the judge of the circuit court, with specific qualifications: One township trustee, one mayor of a city or president of the board of trustees of an incorporated town in the county, one member of a school board of a school municipality in the county, and three resident freeholders of the county. (1) By an act of 1937 the qualifications of the membership of the board were changed. One is a member of the county council, chosen by the council: One member is a member of the board of trustees of the largest incorporated town in the county, selected by such board; one member is a member of the county board of education selected by such board; and four freeholders of the county appointed by the judge of the circuit court. No more than four members of such adjustment board can be members of the same political party. The members serve without compensation and the appointments are made annually. The auditor acts as clerk of the board and keeps a complete record of all its proceedings, but has no vote. (2)

The auditor lays before the board at its meeting in September each year, the budgets adopted and the tax levies and rates fixed by the proper authorities of each municipal corporation

for the ensuing year. (3)

It is the duty of the board to examine, and if it deems necessary, to revise, to change, or to reduce, but not to increase, any tax levy and any corresponding items of the budget on which the tax levies are based, and to apportion the total of all the levies so that the total levy on property within any municipal corporation for which the property therein is taxable, shall not exceed the total rate as provided by law. The board has the right to require such officials to attend its meetings or to furnish any necessary information, and may employ an examiner of the state board of accounts for assistance. (4)

The records of this office are located in the courthouse.

---

(1) Acts 1933; Burns 64-304.
(2) Acts 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 64-310.
(3) Ibid.
(4) Acts 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 64-310, 64-311.

139. COMMISSIONERS' RECORD (Record of Board of Tax Adjustment), 1933--. 1 vol. (20).

Minutes of meetings of tax adjustment board, showing date of meeting, names of members present, and recommendations submitted, approved, or rejected. No index. Hdw. 520 pp. 18 x 14 x 3. Aud. vt.

XII. BOARD OF FINANCE

The board of commissioners of Ripley County constitutes the board of finance, (1) and may sue and be sued in any court having jurisdiction. (2) It was first created by an act of 1907, (3) and later re-created by the Depository Acts of 1935 and 1937, (4)

The board of finance has supervision of all public funds of the county and of the safekeeping and deposit thereof. (5) It designates the banks to serve as depositories for county funds. (6) The board receives monthly statements of county funds on deposit from the banks, (7) and may, as it sees fit, revoke the commission of any depository at any time. (8)

The board of finance holds an annual meeting on the third Monday in January for its organization, (9) a biennial meeting on the third Monday in February, in the odd numbered years for the consideration of proposals as depositories for the ensuing two-year period, (10) and a joint meeting, within five days of the date fixed for filing the proposals, with the agents of all boards of finance--city, town, school, and township--and all banks desiring to become depositories. (11)

The auditor is the secretary of the board and keeps a record of its proceedings. (12) All the records of the board prior to 1937 were transferred to the new board in 1937. (13)

All the records are located in the auditor's office in the courthouse.

---

(1) Acts 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 61-329.
(2) Ibid.; 61-338.
(3) Acts 1937; Burns 61-[illegible].
(4) Acts 1935, ch. 70, sec. 37; Acts 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 61-329, 61-338.
(5) Acts 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 61-329.
(6) Ibid.; 61-[illegible].
(7) Ibid.; 61-[illegible].
(8) Ibid.; 61-336.
(9) Ibid.; 61-338.
(10) Ibid.; 61-336.
(11) Ibid.; 61-[illegible].
(12) Ibid.; 61-329, 61-338.
(13) Ibid.; 61-350.

140. RECORD OF BOARD OF FINANCE, 1937-35. 1 vol.

Minutes of meetings of Board of Finance, showing date of meeting, names of members present, applications of banks to become depositories of county funds, purchase of United States Government obligations, examiners bank statements, and actions taken. No index. Hdw. 436 pp. 16 x 12 x 2. Aud. off.

141. RECORD OF BOND OF PUBLIC DEPOSITORIES, 1937-28. 3 vols. (1-3, 2).

Record of bonds posted by banks and trust companies as depositories for public funds, showing date, amount, and condition of bond, and names of bank and sureties. Indexed alph. by names of banks. Hdw. 400 pp. 14 x 10 x 1½. Aud. off.

XIII. SCHOOL FUND BOARD

Loans from the school funds were made by the auditor under an act of 1865 until 1935 when the school fund board was created. It consists of three members: The auditor and the clerk ex officio, and one member appointed by the judge of the circuit court for a two-year term. The ex-officio members serve without compensation and the appointed member receives two dollars for each loan made. (1)

The duty of this board is to make all loans from the common school and the congressional township school funds to owners of real estate, such loans to be secured by mortgage. The board must satisfy itself, after approval of the title by the county attorney, as to the value of real estate offered in the mortgage, the validity of the title, and whether it is encumbered. (2) Loans may also be made to the county upon proper authorization by the county council, for a period not exceeding five years. (3)

All the records are located in the auditor's office in the courthouse.

---

(1) Acts 1865, 1935; Burns, 1937 suppl., 28-209.
(2) Ibid.
(3) Acts 1901; Burns 28-202.

142. SCHOOL FUND MORTGAGE SPECIAL AFFIDAVIT, 1935--.

2 file boxes.

Affidavits made by school fund board, after investigating the validity of title to real estate offered as collateral for school fund loan, showing date of investigation, names of investigators, and owner, result of investigation, and amount of loan asked for. No index. 12 x 4 x 6. Aud. off.

For other school fund records, see entries 41-42, 188-92.

XIV. TREASURER

The treasurer is a constitutional officer elected for a term of two years. No person is eligible to serve more than four years in any period of six years. (1) He is required to execute his official bond in the penalty of not less than the amount of money which may come into his hands at any time during his term. (2) Prior to the Constitution of 1851 the office of treasurer was established by the legislature; an act of 1817 provided for his appointment by the board of commissioners; (3) an act of 1841 made it an elective office. (4) The inception date of this office in Ripley County is 1818, the organization date of this county.

The treasurer receives all moneys coming to Ripley County and disburses the same on the proper orders issued and attested by the auditor. (5) He collects all taxes for state, county, school, road, or other purpose (6) due the county on the tax duplicate, (7) delivered to him by the auditor, (8) including city taxes. (9) He sells by public auction, real estate (10) and personal property (11) for delinquent taxes. He also collects taxes from corporations in the county; (12) and the excise tax on shares of stock and deposits of banks (13) and loan associations (14) and sells intangible tax stamps for the state board of tax commissioners. (15)

The treasurer makes quarterly reports to the board of

commissioners, showing the true amount of money in the county treasury; (16) a monthly report to the auditor, showing the total amount of cash payments received during the month and the respective accounts credited, (17) an annual settlement for taxes with the county auditor (18) and pays to the state treasurer in June all money due to the state; (19) and additional payments to the state treasurer in December each year (20) and as otherwise directed. (21) He makes to the auditor, a quarterly and at the expiration of his term of office, a sworn report showing specifically the amount of fees collected, (22) and deposits quarterly with the auditor all orders redeemed. (23) The treasurer is a member of the county board of review. (24)

He is required to keep his books by separate accounts for separate funds or specific appropriations as well as by one general account. (25)

All the records are located in the courthouse.

---

(1) Const., art. 3, sec. 2.
(2) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1903, 1919; Burns 49-3101.
(3) Acts 1916-17, ch. 17, secs. 1-2.
(4) Acts 1941, ch. 4, sec. 1.
(5) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-3103, 46-3111.
(6) Acts 1919; Burns 64-1501.
(7) Ibid., 64-1502.
(8) Ibid., 64-1403.
(9) Acts 1933; Burns 46-1219.
(10) Acts 1919; Burns 64-1516.
(11) Ibid., 64-1705.
(12) Ibid., 64-1601.
(13) Acts 1933; Burns 64-804.
(14) Ibid., 64-827.
(15) Ibid., 64-827.
(16) Acts 1895, 1903, 1913; Burns 49-1403.
(17) Acts 1919; Burns 64-2101.
(18) Ibid., 64-2501.
(19) Ibid., 64-2503.
(20) Ibid., 64-2504.
(21) Acts 1859, 1861; Burns 49-1313.
(22) Acts 1895, 1903, 1913; Burns 49-1402.
(23) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-3114.
(24) Acts 1919, 1920 (Spc. Sess.); Burns 64-1201.
(25) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-3109

Tax Collections

Personal and Real Property

143. TAX DUPLICATE, 1847--. 272 vols.

Tax duplicates, showing name of taxpayer; description, location, and taxable value of real and personal property; tax rate; amount of tax; and date paid. Indexed by twps. and thereunder by duplicate nos. Hdw. 400 pp. 27 x 17 x 2½. 231 vols., 1847-1904, 2nd floor stg. rm.; 51 vols., 1902--, Tr. off.

144. REGISTER OF INSOLVENT TAXES, 1903--. 1 vol.

Record of insolvent taxes kept by treasurer, showing date, name of taxpayer, duplicate number, amount of tax, and reason for insolvency. Arr. by duplicat nos. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 18 x 2. Tr. off.

145. CASH BOOK OF TAXES, 1910--. 18 vols. (1-18).

Record of cash received for taxes, showing date of payment, name of taxpayer, nature of tax, and amount. Arr. alph. by names of twps. Hdw. 504 pp. 18 x 18 x 3. 13 vols., 1910-23, 2nd floor stg. rm.; 5 vols., 1923--, Tr. off.

146. COLLECTION REGISTER, OCTOBER SETTLEMENT, 1877-78.

1 vol.

Record of delinquent tax collections, showing date, name and address of taxpayer, receipt number, description and location of property, and amount of tax paid. Arr. alph. by names of twps. Hdw. 300 pp. 18 x 18 x 2. 2nd floor stg. rm.

147. [illegible], 1913--. 661 vols.

Copies of certificate receipts for taxes paid, showing date, name of property owner, receipt number, description and location of property, and amount paid. Arr. chron. Hdw. 400 pp. 18 x 10 x 1½. 475 vols., 1913-29, 2nd floor stg. rm.; 186 vols., 1920--, Tr. off.

Receipts and Disbursements

148. DAILY BALANCES OF CASH AND DEPOSITORIES, 1881--. 18 vols. (1-13, and 1 vol. not numbered). Title varies: Cash Balance Book.

Record of daily cash balances, showing previous balance, amounts received and disbursed, funds debited and credited, names of payee and payer, cash balance in depositories, and current balance. No index. Hdw. 640 pp. 18 x 10 x 2½. 14 vols., 1912-28, 2nd floor stg. rm.; 1 vol., 1881-12, 4 vols., 1929--, Tr. off.; 14 vols., 1912-28, 2nd floor stg. rm.

149. CASH BOOK, TREASURER, 1881--. 21 vols. (1-3, and 1-4, and 14 vols. not numbered).

Record of cash received by treasurer, showing date received, names of payer and fund, receipt number, and amount received. Arr. by receipt nos. Hdw. 500 pp. 16 x 12 x 2. 14 vols., 1881-1912, Hud. vt.; 7 vols., 1912--, Tr. off.

150. CASH BOOK OF RECEIPTS, 1911-24, 1 vol.

Record of cash received by treasurer from sources other than taxes, showing date received, name of payer, and fund debited or credited. Arr. chron. Hdw. 425 pp. 16 x 12 x 2. Tr. vt.

151. CASH BOOK ON DISBURSEMENTS ON AUDITOR'S WARRANTS, 1911--. 7 vols. (1-3, 1-4).

Record of cash paid by treasurer on auditor's warrants, showing date, name of payer and fund, warrant number, amount, and purpose. Arr. by warrant nos. Hdw. 642 pp. 17 x 13 x 3. Tr. off.

152. REGISTER OF WARRANTS AND DEPOSITOR'S BALANCE, 1922--. 2 vols. (2, 2). 1924-32, missing.

Register of warrants drawn on the treasurer by auditor, showing date, names of payer and depository, amount and number of warrant, purpose, date paid, and balance. Arr. alph. by names of banks. Hdw. 640 pp. 17 x 13 x 2½. Tr. off.

153. RECEIPTS, 1912-19. 68 vols.

Record of receipts for cash paid by treasurer on auditors' warrants, showing date, name of payer, amount and number of warrant, purpose, date of receipt, and total amount. No index. Hdw. 100 pp. 3 x 4 x ½. 2nd. floor stg. rm.

For subsequent records, see entry 149.

IV. AUDITOR

The auditor is a constitutional officer, elected for a four-year term. No person can hold the office for more than eight years in any period of twelve. (1) He is required to post bond in the amount of ten thousand dollars approved by and filed with the county commissioners. (2)

Prior to the Constitution of 1851, the office was established by the legislature of 1841. (3)

The auditor's office is the center of county financial administration, and here the financial records of county business are preserved.

The auditor's principal functions are fourfold: As a county "controller", he keeps the accounts of the county and issues warrants for all claims, including those approved by the commissioners. (4) In officio he acts as clerk to the board of commissioners, (5) the county council, (6) and the board of tax adjustment, (7) and as secretary to the board of finance. (8) He is also a member and the secretary of the board of review, (9) and a member of the school fund board. (10) As a tax officer, he prepares the official tax duplicates, (11) certifies to the treasurer the amount of taxes due from banks; (12) and, if the board of tax adjustment fails to complete its duties on time or to reduce the rate to the legal maximum, fixes the tax rate within any municipal corporation in the county. (13) As budget officer he compiles estimates made to him by each county agency; keeps them on file for one month, subject to inspection by

[illegible]

[illegible] Auditor; and submits [illegible] with his recommendations to the county council at its annual meeting. (14)

Other routine duties are: Managing the common school and the congressional township school funds as a member of the school fund board, (15) preparing the ditch duplicate covering assessments for construction or repair of ditches and drains; (16) issuing licenses to peddlers, shows, and theatres, (17) and permits for public warehouses; (18) acknowledging deeds and mortgages executed for the security of trust funds; (19) and approving bonds of township trustees. (20)

All the records are located in the courthouse.

---

(1) Const., art. 6, sec. 2.
(2) Acts 1881; Burns 49-3003.
(3) Acts 1941 (29th Sess.), ch. 2, sec. 1.
(4) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-3002; Acts 1947; Burns 29-308.
(5) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-3004.
(6) Acts 1899; Burns 29-309.
(7) Acts 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 34-810.
(8) Acts 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 61-329, 61-375.
(9) Acts 1919, 1920 (Spc. Sess.); Burns 64-1201.
(10) Acts 1885, 1935; Burns, 1937 suppl., 28-209.
(11) Acts 1919; Burns 64-1403.
(12) Acts 1852; Burns 64-310.
(13) Acts 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 64-314.
(14) Acts 1899; Burns 29-320.
(15) Acts 1885; Burns 29-104; Acts 1885,1935; Burns, 1937 suppl., 29-289.
(16) Acts 1933; Burns 67-134.
(17) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 48-204.
(18) Acts 1875, 1879 (Spc. Sess.); Burns 67-201.
(19) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-3011.
(20) Acts 1915; Burns 65-103.

Audits and Reports

154. DISTRIBUTION TO TOWNSHIPS, TOWNS, AND CITY, 1918-19. 1 vol.

Record of distribution of tax money and paid in penalties in proportionate amounts to the various taxing units, showing date, title of fund, amount, and total. No index. Hdw. 250 pp. 23 x 12 x 2. Aud. vt.

155. AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATES OF DISTRIBUTION, 1920--. 19 file boxes.

Certificates recording distribution of money to townships, county, and state; showing date and amount of certificates, names of funds debited or credited, and total disbursed. No index. 11 x 5 x 4. Tr. vt.

156. TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1918--. 56 vols.

Township trustee's annual reports of receipts and disbursements, showing amount on hand the first of year in each fund, amount expended, warrant number, date, name of payee, title of fund, total income and expenditures, and balance on hand at close of year. Arr. chron. Hdw. 15 x 10 x ½. Comr. off.

157. TRUSTEE'S SETTLEMENT RECORD, 1874-1908. 5 vols. (3-7).

Record of township trustee's expenditures, showing date, names of payee and fund, date of payment, number of voucher, amount paid, and purpose or cause of payment. No index. Hdw. 600 pp. 16 x 12 x 3. Aud. vt.

100. [illegible], 1910-11. 2 vols.

Reports of payments made by township trustees, showing date, names of payee and fund; receipt number; cause or purpose, and amount of payment. No index. Hdw. 200 pp. 15 x 9 x 1. Aud. vt.

101. RECORD OF REPORTS OF SCHOOL CORPORATIONS, 1910-18. 1 vol. (8).

Reports of annual school fund receipts and disbursements, showing date; name of fund; amounts of receipts and disbursements, and balance. Hdw. No index. 640 pp. 16 x 12 x 2½. Aud. vt.

102. REGISTER OF TOWNSHIP WARRANTS AUDITED, 1897-98. 1 vol.

Register of township warrants audited, showing date; name of payee; number of warrant; amount and purpose of payment; and title of fund charged. Arr. chron. Hdw. 600 pp. 17 x 13 x 2½. Aud. vt.

Receipts and Disbursements

101. RECORD OF MONTHLY BALANCES, 1911--. 5 vols. (1-3, and 2 vols. not numbered).

Record of monthly balances of cash handled by auditor, showing names of payee and payer; funds credited and debited; previous balance; daily receipts and disbursements, and current balance. Arr. chron. Hdw. 80 pp. 19 x 16 x 1. Aud. vt.

102. AUDITOR'S CASH BOOK, 1895--. 5 vols. (1-2, 1, and 1 vol. not numbered).

Record of aid received and disbursed to various funds, showing dates received and disbursed; names of payer and fund; and amount and kind of fee. Arr. chron. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 12 x 2. Aud. vt.

103. RECEIPTS OF AUDITOR, 1884-89. 27 vols.

Record of receipts from county revenues and miscellaneous funds, showing date; number and total amount of receipts, and source. Arr. chron. Hdw. 150 pp. 12 x 8 x 1. Aud. vt.

104. RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF COUNTY FUNDS, 1884--.
6 vols. (1-2, 1, and 3 vols. not numbered).

Record of money received and disbursed by auditor, showing date, names of payee and payer; amounts of receipts and disbursements, and fund debited and credited. Arr. by receipt nos. Hdw. 100 pp. 23 x 18 x 1 3/4. Aud. vt.

105. RECORD OF APPROPRIATIONS AND DISBURSEMENTS, 1888--.
6 vols. (1-4, and 2 vols. not numbered).

Record of appropriations and distributions to various county units, showing date, name of payee, amount appropriated in each fund, warrants drawn, amount and purpose of payment, title of fund, and balance left in fund. Indexed alph. by names of payees. Hdw. 300 pp. 19 x 16 x 4. Aud. vt.

106. RECORD OF RECEIPTS FOR DISBURSEMENTS OF FUNDS TO COUNTY OFFICIALS, 1888-1910. 1 vol.

Record of receipts given by county officials to auditor for money received, showing date; names of payee, amount and number of receipt, purpose, fund, and signature of payer. Indexed alph. by names of payees. Hdw. 400 pp. 18 x 12 x 2. Aud. vt.

167. REGISTER OF WARRANTS, 1918--. 6 vols. (2, and 7 vols. not numbered.)

Carbon copies of warrants issued by auditor, showing title and number of appropriation, date, name of payee, cause or purpose of payment, and amount and number of warrant. No index. Hdw. 800 pp. 17 x 12 x 2. Aud. vt.

168. REGISTER OF WARRANTS BY DEPOSITORIES, 1925-31. 1 vol. Record of warrants drawn against depository funds, showing date, name of depository, amount of warrant, title of appropriation, number of disbursement record, and balance. Arr. chron. Hdw. 600 pp. 17 x 15 x 2. 2nd floor stg. rm.

169. AUDITOR'S WARRANTS, not dated. 175 envelopes. Auditor's original warrants, showing date, number, and amount of warrant; name of payee; purpose; and name of fund debited. No index. 9½ x 4 x 1. Aud. vt.

170. COUNTY AUDITOR'S RECORD POOR RELIEF FUNDS, 1905--. 2 vols.

Record of expenditures for poor relief by townships, showing names of township, trustee, and vendor; number of claim; classification and list of goods furnished; and amount of claim. No index. 1905-1932, hdw.; 1932--, typed. 600 pp. 16 x 13 x 2½. 1 vol., 1905-32, Aud. vt.; 1 vol., 1932--, Aud. off.

171. REGISTER OF ALLOWANCES, 1881-84. 4 vols.

Report of auditors' allowances for county expenditures, showing title of office, date, name of fund, amount of payment, purpose, and total amount. Arr. by claim nos. Hdw. 400 pp. 18 x 11 x 2. 3 vols., 1880-84, 2nd floor stg. rm.; 1 vol., 1880-73, Aud. off.

172. JOURNAL (Disbursements), 1841-84. 3 vols. (1-2, and 1 vol. not numbered).

Daily record of expenditures, showing date; name of payee; number of order, amount and purpose of payment, and daily balance of various funds. Arr. chron. Hdw. 475 pp. 18 x 11 x 2½. Aud. vt.

173. LEDGER, 1880-84. 1 vol. (2).

Record of disbursements, showing various amounts expended for coroners' inquests, bailiff fees in circuit and common pleas courts, and auditor's fees and commissioners' fees; showing date, kind of service, name of payee, title of fund, amounts, and volume and page numbers of journal. Indexed alph. by names of fees. Hdw. 556 pp. 18 x 11 x 2. Aud. vt.

174. REGISTER OF ORDERS, 1841-81. 4 vols.

Register of orders issued to pay claims against county, showing date, names of payee and fund, and amount and nature of claim. No index. Hdw. 680 pp. 18 x 9 x 2. Aud. vt.

175. OLD AGE PENSIONS, COUNTY FUND, 1934-36. 3 vols.

Carbon copies of auditor's warrants for old age pensions, showing date, name of payee, and amount. Arr. chron. Hdw. 700 pp. 17 x 11 x 2½. Aud. vt.

For other old age pensions records, see entries 7, 235.

Taxes

Appraisements

176. TRANSFER BOOK, 1848--. 294 vols.

Record of real estate by nofers, showing names of grantor and grantee; description and location of land, value of improvements, and total value. Indexed alph. by names of grantees and grantors. Hdw. 200 pp. 17 x 15 x 1½. 1 vol., 1848-54, Aud. vt.; 259 vols., 1855-1933, Recr. vt.; 34 vols., 1933--, Aud. off.

177. APPRAISER'S BOOK, 1864-75. 2 vols. 1866-74, missing.

Title varies: Valuation of Real Estate.

Record of appraised value of lots and lands in county, showing date; name of owner, value of land and improvements; location and description of property, and total value. 1874-75, no index; 1864, indexed alph. by names of twps. Hdw. 300 pp. 16 x 11 x 2. 1 vol., 1864, 2nd. floor stg. rm.; ½ vol., 1874-75, Aud. off.

178. ABSTRACT OF ASSESSMENT, 1859. 1 vol.

Record of valuation of real estate by townships, showing name of owners, description and value of lots and lands, value of improvements, and total value. Indexed alph. by names of twps. Hdw. 500 pp. 16 x 11 x 2½. 2nd floor stg. rm.

Returns

179. MORTGAGE EXEMPTIONS, 1917--. 94 vols.

Record of affidavits of mortgage indebtedness filed to secure

tax redemption, showing date filed, name of mortgagee, location and description of property, and amount of indebtedness. Arr. alph. by names of twps, thereunder by affidavit numbers. Hdw. 300 pp. 14 x 9 x 1½. 60 vols., 1917-23, 2nd floor stg. rm.; 14 vols., 1932--, Tr. off.

180. FORESTRY RECORD, 1904-6. 1 vol.

Record of land surveyed and set aside by the United States government, and agreed to by landowners, to be included in a forest reserve, for which landowner is allowed a tax assessment of one dollar per acre; showing date of survey, name of landowner, description and location of property, and acreage. Indexed alph. by names of landowners. Hdw. 296 pp. 15 x 11 x 1½. Aud. vt.

Lists

181. ASSESSMENTS, REAL ESTATE, 1908--. 167 vols. Title varies: Assessor's Book.

Record of real estate assessments for taxation purposes, showing date; name of owner; description and location of parcel, appraised value of land, value and improvements for taxation, and total amount for county. Arr. alph. by names of owners. Hdw. 300 pp. 15 x 11 x 1. 78 vols., 1908-20, 2nd floor stg. rm.; 89 vols., 1931--, Tr. vt.

182. ASSESSMENTS, 1903--. 1001 vols. Title varies: Personal Assessments.

Record of assessments of personal property for purpose of taxation, showing date; name and address of owners; list of goods, chattels, money credited, animals, and all other personals; each value; and total value for taxation. Arr. alph. by names of owners. Hdw. 600 pp. 14 x 9 x 2. 806 vols., 1903-30, 2nd floor stg. rm.; 195 vols., 1931--, Tr. off.

Delinquent and Erroneous

183. LIST OF DELINQUENT LANDS AND LOTS, 1838--. 22 vols. (1-22, and 6 vols. not numbered). 1843-58, missing. Title varies: Delinquent Lands and Lots Sold; Record of Lands and Lots; Delinquent List.

Record of delinquent taxes, showing name of owner, location and description of real and personal property, tax term, and amounts of delinquent tax, interest, and penalty. Indexed alph. by names of owners. Hdw. 400 pp. 20 x 17 x 2. 3 vols., 1838-43, Aud. main vt.; 22 vols., 1858-77, 2nd floor stg. rm.; 3 vols., 1877--, Aud. vt.

184. RECORD OF TAX SALES, 1856--. 4 vols. (3, 4, and 2 vols. not numbered).

Record of property sold to satisfy tax delinquencies, showing dates of sale and redemption, location and description of property, amounts delinquent and recovered, and names of owner and

redemptor. Indexed alph. by names of purchasers. Hdw. 600 pp. 16 x 18 x 3. 3 vols., 1858--, Aud. vt.; 1 vol., 1871--, Tr. off.

For tax title deeds records, see entry 33.

165. REGISTER OF DEEDS, 1858-1931. 1 vol.
Record of tax titles of deeds given by auditor to purchasers of tax delinquent property, showing dates of sale and redemption; description of property; amounts of delinquency, interest, and penalties; amount sold for; and names of purchaser and delinquent owner. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 3 x 2½. Aud. main vt.

Plat Books

166. ASSESSOR'S PLAT BOOK, 1907-32. 57 vols.
Plats of civil townships used for making assessments of taxation, showing date; names of owner, section, quarter sections, grants, and governmental subdivisions; value of lands, lots, and improvements; and plat numbers. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 16 x 10 x 3/4. Recr. vt.

167. AUDITOR'S PLAT BOOK, not dated. 1 vol.
Plats of Ripley County, showing townships, sections, ranges, quarter sections, grants, subdivisions, ditches, roads, rivers, acreage, parcels, names of owners, and values for assessment by parcels, plats, and lots. Arr. by names of twps. and towns. Hdw. 68 pp. 27 x 21 x 5. Aud. off.

School Funds
(see also entries 41-43, 142)

188. INVENTORY OF TRUST ON SCHOOL FUNDS, 1888--. 1 vol. Record of financial statements of school trust funds, showing dates of reports, loans made, interest paid and due, and loan amounts due; loans in force; amount of funds unloaned; revenue from sales of mortgaged property; amounts distributed to school units; and balance in funds. Arr. by numbers of loans. Hdw. 400 pp. 16 x 17 x 1 3/4. Aud. vt.

189. REGISTER OF LOANS OF SCHOOL TRUST FUNDS, 1888--. 1 vol. Record of common and congressional school fund loans, showing dates of loan and payment, name of borrower, amount and interest rate of loan, date of maturity, circle of fund, and location and description of property mortgaged. Indexed alph. by names of borrowers. Hdw. 600 pp. 16 x 12 x 2. Ar. vt.

190. RECEIPTS OF SCHOOL FUNDS, 1852-1921. 5 vols.
1884-1888, 1896-98, 1899-1907, missing.
Record of receipts to school funds, showing date received, name of payer, amount and source of revenue, fund and account charged, proceeds of bond sale levies, and total receipts accounted for. Arr. by numbers of receipts. Hdw. 350 pp. 15 x 10 x 2. Aud. main vt.

191. REGISTER OF ORDERS, SCHOOL FUND, 1852-03. 1 vol. Record of school fund pay orders, showing date, number of order,

name or title of payee, nature of payment, and amount and title of fund drawn. Arr. chron. Hdw. 400 pp. 12 x 8 x 1½. Aud. main vt.

192. SALE OF SCHOOL SECTIONS, 1884-46. 1 vol.

Record of sales of land donated for school purposes and sold to raise money for school upkeep, showing date of sale, description of land, amount of sale, amount paid in, and names of purchaser and donor. No index. Hdw. 50 pp. 12 x 8 x ½. Aud. main vt.

Public Improvements

193. LEDGER, PLAT BOOKS, 1918-1926. 2 vols. (1, and 1 vol. not numbered).

Record of receipts for sums distributed to county funds, showing names of unit and official, number of receipt, date, amount paid, and purpose for which issued. Arr. by receipt nos. Hdw. 500 pp. 16 x 12 x 2. Aud. vt.

Official Bonds
(See also entries 11-14)

194. TRUSTEE'S BOND RECORD, 1882--. 3 vols. (1, and 2 vols. not numbered).

Record of bonds posted by township trustees, showing date, name of trustee, term of office, amount and terms of bond, title of entry, and signatures of principals. Indexed alph. by names of trustees. Hdw. 400 pp. 16 x 12 x 2. Aud. vt.

195. RECORD OF SCHOOL BONDS, 1911--. 1 vol.

Record of bonds posted by school trustees, showing date, names of official and surety, tenure of office, and amount and condition of bond. Indexed alph. by names of trustees. Hdw. 402 pp. 10 x 12 x 2. Aud. main vt.

196. ASSESSOR'S BONDS, 1906-36. 1 vol.

Record of bonds posted by assessors, showing date, names of assessor and surety, term of office, amount and condition of bond, and sign. of principals. Indexed alph. by names of officials. 1906-14. hdw.; 1914--, typed. 386 pp. 10 x 12 x 1½. Aud. main vt.

Miscellaneous Records

197. ENUMERATION OF WHITE AND COLORED MALES, 1925-31.
20 vols. (1-20).

Record of white and colored males in county, above the age of twenty-one years, showing name and address, date and place of birth, and date of poll. Indexed alph. by names of parties polled. Hdw. 100 pp. 14 x 8 x ½. Aud. off.

198. LIST OF WHITE MALES (Enumeration), 1933-36. 2 vols.
Title varies: Enumeration of White Males.

Record of white males over twenty-one years of age, showing name and address, date and place of birth, and nationality. No index. Hdw. 180 pp. 14 x 9 x 3/4. Aud. main vt.

199. [illegible], 1880-1916. 4 vols. (4, 4 and 2 vols. not numbered).

Record of bonds posted by applicants for retail liquor licenses, showing date, name and residence of applicant; location of business place; amount of bond; obligations and conditions under which license will be revoked and bond forfeited; and signatures of applicant and sureties. Indexed alph. by names of applicant. 1880-1914, hdw; 1915-16, typed. 425 pp, 10 x 12 x 2. Aud. main vt.

200. [illegible] BOOK, 1884-88. 2 vols.

Record of funds booked as withdrawn, but warrants remaining uncalled for; showing date, name of payee, amount, and purpose of payment, warrant number, fund, amount of principal and interest charged back to original appropriation, and amounts redistributed from the appropriation to the several funds of county. Arr. chron. Hdw. 200 pp. 12 x 8 x [illegible]. Aud. main vt.

201. COUNTY BUILDING BOOK, 1908-44. 1 vol.

Record of foundings of enterprises, such as building of roads, schools, courthouses, and other public work; requiring approval of legislature; showing names of founders, petitioners, and committees; and description, location, nature, and history of the undertaking. Arr. chron. Hdw. 150 pp. 12 x 7 x 1. Aud. main vt.

[illegible]

SOM. MIDDLE SOUTH, ANGOLA, nos [illegible]. 1 map.
Political map showing boundaries of communes and districts, locations of highways and roads, circles, towns and villages, rivers, and streams. Blueprint. Scale: 1" to 2 mi. 33 x 27. Add. main ro.

XVI. REGISTRATION OFFICER

By an act of 1933, the clerk of the circuit court is designated as ex-officio registration officer of the county. He has full charge and control of the registration of voters and appoints as many deputies as are necessary to do the work. (1)

As ex-officio registration officer, the clerk of the circuit court is required to provide all the necessary books and paraphernalia for the registering of voters. (2)

All the records are located in the courthouse.

---

(1) Acts 1933, 1935; Burns 1937 suppl., 29-306.

(2) Acts 1933; Burns 29-309.

203. REGISTER OF NOTICE TO HOLD RESIDENCE, 1890-92.

1 vol.

Record of notice to become a resident, showing date, names of elector and township, address, ward, and precinct number. Indexed alph. by names of applicants. Hdw. 350 pp. 16 x 12 x 1½. Clk. stg. rm.

204. REGISTER OF NOTICE TO BECOME A VOTER, 1890-92.

1 vol.

Record of notice to become a voter, showing date, names of elector and township, age, residence, ward, and precinct number. Indexed alph. by names of voters. Hdw. 300 pp. 16 x 12 x 1½. Clk. stg. rm.

205. REGISTRATION OF AFFIDAVITS, 1934. 34 vols.

Record of affidavits to qualify as elector, showing date, names of affiant and township, age, sex, color, nationality, length of residence, place of birth, number of ward and precinct. Indexed alph. by names of voters. Hdw. and typed. 300 pp. 18 x 11 x 3. Clk. off.

206. TRANSFER OF VOTERS' REGISTRATION, 1934--. 3 file boxes.

Transfer file of voters registration, showing date, names of voter and township, former and present address, number of ward, and precinct. Indexed alph. by names of voters. 11 x 4 x 4½. Clk. vt.

207. REGISTRATION BOOK OF EACH VOTING PRECINCT, 1914-24. 96 vols.

Record of registered voters in each precinct, showing date, number, names of elector, address, age, place of birth, ward, and precinct number. Indexed alph. by names of voters. Hdw. 50 pp. 16 x 10 x ½. Clk. stg. rm., 2nd floor.

208. RECORD OF ABSENT VOTERS' BALLOTS, 1918--. 2 vols. (1, and 1 vol. not numbered).

Record of applications for absent voters' ballot, showing date, name of applicant, residence, foreign post office, date of election, and date ballot was mailed and received. No index. Hdw. 235 pp. 16 x 12 x 1½. 1 vol., 1918-24, Clk. vt.; 1 vol., 1924--, Clk. off.

XVII. PRIMARY ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

The board of primary election commissioners was provided for by an act of 1915. It consists of the clerk of the circuit court, and two persons appointed by him, one from each of the two major political parties; each of whom is nominated in writing by the chairman of the county central committee of the two political parties respectively. It is the duty of the board to prepare and distribute the primary ballots and generally supervise the primary elections. (1) The canvass of the primary votes is done by the county board of canvassers. (2)

All the records are located in the courthouse.

---

(1) Acts 1915, 1917; Burns 29-504.

(2) Acts 1915; Burns 29-560.

209. ELECTION RECORD, 1890--. 2 vols. (1-2).

Election Record Contains: Election Record, entry 210; Election Returns, entry 213; Election Returns by Townships and Precincts, entry 214. No index. Hdw. Condition fair. 600 pp. 18 x 16 x 2½. Clk. vt.

210. PRIMARY ELECTION RECORD, 1890--. In Election Record, entry 209.

Record of primary election returns by townships and precincts, showing date; names of candidate, office, and political party; number of votes in each precinct, and township; and total.

211. ELECTION SHERIFFS, 1892--. 3 vols. (1, 1, and 1 vol. not numbered).

Election Sheriffs, Contains: Record of Appointment of Primary Election Sheriffs, entry 212; Election Sheriff's Appointment, entry 216. Indexed alph. by names of appointees. Hdw. 300 pp. 14 x 9 x 1½. Shf. off.

212. RECORD OF APPOINTMENT OF PRIMARY ELECTION SHERIFFS, 1892--. In Election Sheriffs, entry 211.

Record of appointments of election sheriffs, showing date, names of appointee and political party, residence, numbers of ward and precinct, and nature of duty.

XVIII. BOARD OF CANVASSERS

By an act of 1905, the legislature constituted the board of election commissioners, a board of canvassers. (1) The board elects its own chairman and the clerk of the circuit court acts as clerk of the board. (2)

The board is required to assemble at six o'clock, p.m., on election days to canvass and estimate the certificates, poll lists, and tally papers returned by the election inspectors; (3) to tabulate therefrom the votes of the county, filing the tally papers, poll books, and canvass sheets in the office of the clerk of the circuit court, open to inspection by any legal voter; (4) and to declare in a certified statement the candidates elected, (5) and deliver to them a certification of election.

The inception date of this board in Ripley County is 1906.

The records are located in the courthouse.

---

(1) Acts 1905, 1927; Burns 29-1401.
(2) Acts 1905; Burns 29-1402.
(3) Acts 1905, 1927; Burns 29-1401.
(4) Acts 1905; Burns 29-1404.
(5) Acts 1905; Burns 29-1405.

213. ELECTION RETURNS, 1890--. In Election Record, entry 209. Record of election returns by townships and precincts, showing date; names of candidate, office, and political party; number of votes in each precinct and township; and total.

XIX. BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

By legislative enactment in 1889, the board of election commissioners was created. It consists of the clerk of the circuit court, and two persons appointed by him, one from each of the two major political parties; each of whom is nominated by the chairman of the county central committee of the two political parties respectively. The board is appointed annually. It prepares and distributes ballots for the election of county officers. (1)

The board's duties are: To print ballots; to receive petitions to place candidates' names on the ballots; and to receive certificates of nominations by convention or primary election. (2)

All the records are located in the courthouse.

---

(1) Acts 1889; Burns 29-1002. (2) Acts 1889, 1933; Burns 29-1003.

214. GENERAL ELECTION RECORD, 1890--. In Election Record, entry 209.

Record of election returns by townships and precincts, showing date; names of candidate, office, and political party; number of votes, in each precinct and township; and total.

215. CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION IN INCORPORATED TOWNS AND CITIES, 1890--. 1 vol.

Certified statement of election returns, showing date; names of candidate, office, political party, and election official; number of votes; and plurality. Indexed alph. by names of towns. Hdw. 300 pp. 16 x 11 x 1 3/4. Clk. vt.

216. ELECTION SHERIFF'S APPOINTMENT, 1892--. In Election Sheriffs, entry 211.

Record of appointments of election sheriffs, showing date, names of appointee and political party, residence, numbers of ward and precinct, and nature of duty.

XX. BOARD OF EDUCATION

The educational system of Indiana, in its beginning, was under local administration of township and district officials and so continued more than half a century.

The county-wide supervision of the schools began in 1873, when an act of the legislature created the board of education, comprised of the county superintendent of schools, the township trustees of the county, and the school trustees of each city and town of the county. (1)

By an act of 1877, the membership of the board was changed to consist of the county superintendent of schools, the township trustees, and the chairman of school trustees of each city and town. (2)

The board meets semiannually on the first day of May and September. Its duties are to take care of the general needs of the schools, maintenance of school property, and purchase of furniture, books, maps, charts, and other supplies. (3) It also may appoint a county attendance officer upon nomination of the county superintendent, (4) and may purchase text-books from publishers and sell them to pupils at cost. (5)

The records are located in the office of the superintendent of schools in the courthouse.

---

(1) Acts 1873, ch. 25, sec. 8.
(2) Acts 1873, 1877; Burns 28-801.
(3) Ibid.
(4) Acts 1921, 1932 (Spc. Sess.); Burns 28-501.
(5) Acts 1921; Burns 28-614.

217. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECORD (Record of Board of Education), 1930--. 1 vol.

Record of regular and special meetings of board of education, showing date, names of members, nature of business, proceedings, and disposal of issues. No index. Hdw. 500 pp. 16 x 12 x 2½. Supt. sch. off.

XXI. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

In 1865 the legislature provided for a school examiner to be appointed by the county commissioners for a term of three years. (1)

This act was amended in 1873, and the school examiner's title was changed to county superintendent of schools. He was appointed by the township trustees to serve for a term of two years. (2)

In 1890 the legislature extended the term of office of the superintendent of schools to four years, and also provided that he be elected by the township trustees. The act required that he post bond with the auditor to insure faithful performance of his duties as prescribed by law. (3) The inception date of this office in Ripley County is 1873.

The superintendent exercises general supervision of the schools outside of incorporated cities and towns of Ripley County. He visits each township institute once each school year and conducts teachers' county institutes. He carries out the orders of the state board of education and the state superintendent of public instruction. (4) He is required to make a report as to teachers' preparation, experience, and license before being hired by the school trustees. (5) He makes out the basis of apportionment of school revenues from the enumeration of pupils. (6) He receives statements for school aid relief from school and township trustees. (7) He is ex-officio member and president of the board of education. (8)

All the records are located in the courthouse.

(1) Acts 1865, ch. 1, sec. 33.
(2) Acts 1873, ch. 25, sec. 2.
(3) Acts 1899, 1911, 1913; Burns 28-702.
(4) Acts 1899; Burns 28-704.
(5) Acts 1927, 1933; Burns 28-4309.
(6) Acts 1865; Burns 28-715.
(7) Acts 1933; Burns 28-903.
(8) Acts 1873, 1877; Burns 28-801.

Activities and Reports

218. SUP(ERINTENDEN)T OF SCHOOL RECORD, 1900--. 3 vols. Record of superintendent's reports on school statistics, teachers' institute, and board of education; showing date; names of teacher and board members; number of teachers hired and attending institute; examinations conducted; grades, success items, and action of board. Arr. chron. Hdw. 250 pp. 14 x 12 x 2. Supt. sch. off.

Teachers

219. TEACHER'S SUCCESS GRADES, 1932--. 1 file box. Report of success as teachers, showing date, names of teacher and school; number of pupils, grade, record of accomplishments, marks gained in class; and rating in required percentage. Arr. chron. 14 x 12 x 30. Supt. sch. off.

Pupils

220. RECORD OF CHILDREN OF COMPULSORY AGE, 1932--. 2 vols. Record of children within school age, showing date; name of school; and age, sex, color, and residence of child. Arr. chron. Hdw. 100 pp. 18 x 12 x ½. Supt. sch. off.

221. RECORD OF COMMON SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REPORT, 1932--. 4 vols.

Record of common school attendance, showing date; school attended; name, age, sex, and color of pupil; and times tardy. Arr. chron. Hdw. 150 pp. 18 x 12 x 1. Supt. sch. off.

222. STUDENTS' SUCCESS GRADES, 1932--. 1 file box.

Report of success grades of students, showing date; school attended; and name, sex, age, color, grade, rating accomplishment, and success grade of pupil. Arr. chron. 14 x 12 x 30. Supt. sch. off.

223. RECORD OF SCHOOL EXAMINATION, 1932--. 4 vols.

Record of examinations for pupils, showing date; names of pupil and school; and grade and standing in subject. Arr. chron. Hdw. 150 pp. 18 x 12 x ½. Supt. sch. off.

224. RECORD OF STUDENTS' GRADUATION, 1932--. 4 vols.

Record of graduations, showing date of graduation; name, age, sex, color, school, and address of student; and final grades in subjects. Arr. chron. Hdw. 150 pp. 18 x 12 x ½. Supt. sch. off.

XXII. HEALTH COMMISSIONER

By an act of 1881, the board of commissioners was constituted ex officio a county board of health and was required to elect annually a secretary who was a physician, and served as the health officer for the county. (1) The duty of this board was to keep a complete record of all births, marriages, and deaths. (2)

In 1891 the legislature enlarged the duties of the board of health, whose secretary was its executive officer. (3) The term of office of the health officer was extended to four years in 1899. (4)

The county board of health was abolished by an amendatory act of 1909. At the same time the office of health commissioner was established to enforce all health laws and keep the records of vital and sanitary statistics. The health commissioner was elected by the county commissioners to serve for a four-year term. (5)

The inception date of the records of this office in Ripley County is 1882.

By an act of 1935, effective January 1, 1938, the title of county health commissioner was changed to county health officer, who is appointed by the county commissioners with the approval of the state board of health, to serve four years. The county health officer must be legally qualified to practice medicine, suitably trained in sanitary science, and his qualifications must

be satisfactory to the state board of health. He is required to enforce the health laws of the state and all rules of the state board of health. (6)

It is the duty of the health officer to enforce the health laws; to record and report vital statistics such as births, deaths, and marriages; to make sanitary inspection of all public and private buildings in regard to sources of disease; to establish quarantine and take all reasonable means to protect the public health; to close schools and churches; and to prohibit public assemblies to prevent epidemics. (7)

All the records are located in the office of the health commissioner, Dr. A. Whitlatch, Milan, Indiana.

---

(1) Rev. Stat. 1881, sec. 4993.
(2) Rev. Stat. 1881, sec. 4997.
(3) Acts 1891, ch. 15, secs. 8-9.
(4) Acts 1899, ch. 16, sec. 2.
(5) Acts 1891, 1909; Burns 35-108.
(6) Acts 1935; Burns, 1936 suppl., 35-118.
(7) Acts 1891, 1909; Burns 35-111.

Vital Statistics

225. BIRTH RECORD, 1890--. 11 vols.

Record of births, showing name, address, sex, color, and date of birth of child; parents' names; and number in family. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 16 x 12 x 1.

For prior records, see entry 229.

226. MARRIAGES, 1890--. 5 vols.

Record of marriages, showing date; names, ages, places of birth and marriage, and color of bride and groom; and names of parents of both and of person officiating. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 16 x 12 x 1.

For other marriage records, see entries 15-16.

227. CONTAGIOUS DISEASES, 1890--. 11 vols.

Record of contagious diseases, showing dates of quarantine and release; name, address, age, sex, and color of patient; nature of disease; and action taken. Arr. chron. Hdw. 150 pp. 16 x 12 x 1.

For prior records, see entry 229.

228. DEATH RECORD, 1890--. 6 vols.

Record of deaths, showing date; name, age, sex, color, places of birth and death; names of parents of deceased; and cause of death. No index. Hdw. 150 pp. 16 x 12 x 1.

For prior records, see entry 229.

229. MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, DEATHS, CONTAGIOUS DISEASES, 1882-90. 1 vol.

Record of marriages, showing date; names of bride, groom, parents, and person officiating; age; and places of birth and marriage; births: showing names of child and parents; address, sex, color, and number in family of child; deaths: showing names of deceased and parents; age, sex, color, and places of birth and death of deceased; and cause of death; contagious diseases: showing dates of quarantine and release; name, address, age, sex, color, and nature of disease of patient; and action taken by health commissioner. Arr. chron. Hdw. 400 pp. 18 x 14 x 3.

XXIII. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

The department of public welfare of Ripley County, created by the legislature in 1936, is administered by a board of public welfare. The department may sue and be sued in its own name. (1)

The board of public welfare consists of five persons having a recognized interest in and knowledge of the problems of public welfare, who must be residents of the county for two years. Its members are appointed by the judge of the circuit court; at least two members must be women and not more than three may be adherents of any one political party. The first appointees serve: One for one year, two for two years, and two for four years; and thereafter the term is four years. The board holds a regular meeting once a month, the August meeting to be known as the annual meeting, and it may hold other meetings pursuant to call. (2) Its duties are to elect the director of public welfare who serves as secretary of the board and the executive and administrative officer of the department, (3) to receive and administer gifts and bequests of personal property and of income from real estate for the benefits of children under its supervision or of any home or institution caring for neglected or dependent children under its supervision, to invest any funds so received by it, such investments being kept in a special fund and not commingled with funds received from taxation; (4) and to adopt an annual budget for the department for consideration by the county council. (5)

The director of public welfare must give bond not to exceed five thousand dollars, to be approved by the judge of the circuit court and filed in the office of the clerk. (6) He appoints with the approval of the board, all assistants in the department from eligible lists established by the state department, and fixes their salary. (7) As executive officer of the department, he exercises all the rights, powers, and duties conferred by law on the department under the rules, regulations, and orders of the state and county boards, (8) and compiles an annual budget for submission to the board. (9) The director of public welfare and his assistants perform the function of probation officer or agent of the court in welfare matters under the supervision of any court having jurisdiction therein as the court may direct. (10)

The department of public welfare is charged with the administration of assistance to dependent children in their own homes, old age assistance, services and assistance to persons otherwise handicapped, the care and treatment of dependent, neglected, and handicapped children, children in danger of becoming delinquent, and such other welfare activities as are delegated to it by the state department including services connected with assistance to the blind. The department makes reports to the state department as directed by the latter. (11) The department also administers provisions and benefits of the Federal "Social Security Act" of August 14, 1935, as authorized thereby. (12)

The board of childrens' guardians and the board of county charities and corrections were abolished by an amendment of 1937, and all their rights, powers, and duties were transferred to the department of public welfare. (13)

The department is maintained by the county welfare fund raised by a separate tax levy, (14) to which is added such payments as may be made under legal compulsion by recipients, their parents, children, or other persons liable for their support. (15) The county receives reimbursement of certain proportion of its expenditures from the state, (16) and a part of any Federal Funds received by the state. (17)

The auditor keeps the records relating to the county welfare fund and their other financial transactions. (18) The department keeps such records and accounts relating to assistance as the state department describes. (19) All records, except applications for assistance, awards, and modification and revocation of awards, are confidential. (20)

All the records are located in the public welfare office, in the courthouse.

---

(1) Acts 1936 (Spc. Sess.); Burns, 1937 suppl., 52-1117, 52-1122.
(2) Acts 1936 (Spc. Sess.), 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 52-1118.
(3) Ibid.; 52-1119.
(4) Acts 1936 (Spc. Sess.); Burns, 1937 suppl., 52-1122.
(5) Ibid., 52-1302.
(6) Acts 1936 (Spc. Sess.), 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 52-1119.
(7) Ibid., 52-1123.
(8) Ibid., 52-1126.
(9) Acts 1936 (Spc. Sess.); Burns, 1937 suppl., 52-1302.
(10) Ibid., 52-1120.
(11) Ibid.
(12) Acts 1936 (Spc. Sess.); Burns, 1937 suppl., 52-1113.
(13) Acts 1936 (Spc. Sess.), 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 52-1121.
(14) Acts 1936 (Spc. Sess.); Burns, 1937 suppl., 52-1301.
(15) Ibid., 52-1263.
(16) Acts 1936 (Spc. Sess), 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 52-1124-A.
(17) Acts 1936 (Spc. Sess.); Burns, 1937 suppl., 52-1219, 52-1249, 52-1254.
(18) Ibid., 52-1401.
(19) Ibid., 52-1260.
(20) Ibid., 52-1262.

230. MINUTE BOOK, 1936--. 1 vol.

Record of meetings of the board of public welfare, showing date, names of applicants and members of the board, nature of business, amount of assistance allowed or rejected, and disposition. Arr. chron. Typed. 570 pp. 18 x 14 x 3.

231. REGISTER OF ALL APPLICATION, 1936--. 1 vol.

Record of applications for assistance, showing date; application, code, certificate, and serial numbers; names of applicant and visitor; address, age, sex, color, and report of visitor; amount granted or rejected; and monthly payment. Arr. alph. by names of applicants. Hdw. 320 pp. 14 x 8 x 1½. W.

232. CASE RECORD, 1936--. 1 file drawer.

Applications for assistance of old age and dependent children, showing date; application, case, and serial numbers; name, age, address, sex, color, and place of birth of applicant; and reason for filing application. Arr. by case numbers. 30 x 16 x 10.

233. LEGAL OPINIONS, 1936--. 1 file drawer.

Reports of information on eligibility for assistance cases, showing date; case number; names of applicant, doctor, relatives, county and government officials, lodges, and corporation; nature of information; and disposition. Arr. by application numbers. 30 x 16 x 10.

234. THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE, 1936--. 1 vol.

Record of recommendations and approvals for assistance, showing

date, serial and code numbers, name of applicant, amount awarded, proceedings of board, and disposition of case. Arr. chron. Hdw. 200 pp. 14 x 10 x 2.

235. RECORD OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN AGED PERSONS, 1936--.
2 vols.

Record of old age assistance, showing date; application, code, serial, certificate, and warrant numbers; name, address, age, sex, color, and date of birth of applicant; amount granted; date effective; and number of and reason for withdrawals. Arr. chron, thereunder alph. by names of applicants. Hdw. 500 pp. 14 x 8 x 4.

236. RECORD OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN DEPENDENT CHILDREN, 1936--.
1 vol.

Record of information on eligibility for assistance to dependent children, showing date; application, certificate, and warrant numbers; name, address, and date of birth of applicant; amount granted and date effective; and nature and source of information. Arr. alph. by names of applicants. Hdw. 200 pp. 14 x 8 x 2.

237. RECEIPT BOOK OF PAYMENT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE, 1936--.
2 vols.

Record of public assistance payments, showing date; application, serial, code, and warrant numbers; name of recipient; and amount and fund credited. Arr. alph. by names of applicants. Hdw. 200 pp. 18 x 8 x 1.

238. REGISTER OF CLAIMS FILED AND APPROVAL OF WARRANT ISSUED, 1936--. 1 vol.

Record of claims filed for burial of persons receiving assistance, showing date of register, warrant number, names and addresses of claimant and deceased, amount and date of payment, and account credited. No index. Hdw. 50 pp. 14 x 10 x 1.

239. DEATHS, 1936--. 1 file drawer.

Record of cases canceled because of death of client, showing date, name of deceased, amount drawn, and cancelation of account. Arr. chron, and thereunder alph. by names of deceased. 30 x 16 x 10.

XXIV. SURVEYOR

The surveyor is a constitutional officer, elected for a term of two years without restriction on reelection. (1) He must give bond in a sum fixed by the board of county commissioners. (2) Prior to the Constitution of 1851 the surveyor was a statutory officer, being appointed by the Governor by an act of 1818 (3) and by the board of commissioners by an act of 1831. (4) The inception date of this office in Ripley County is 1818.

The surveyor has charge, under direction of the board of commissioners, of all surveying and civil engineering work of the county, including the preparation of plans and specifications for, and supervision of, the construction of all bridges, turnpikes, roads, ditches, drains, and levees. (5) He also has charge of the repair and maintenance of county highways, (6) unless the county commissioners employ a highway supervisor. The county commissioners may employ the surveyor to serve as highway supervisor. (7)

For private parties, he takes acknowledgments of mortgages and deeds for the conveyance of real estate, (8) and, upon request, establishes lines and corners of lands. (9)

All the records are located in the courthouse.

---

(1) Const., art. 6, sec. 2; 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Burns 49-3301.
(2) Acts 1913; Burns 49-3302.
(3) Acts 1817-18, ch. 30, sec. 1,
(4) Acts 1831, ch. 102, sec. 1.
(5) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1911; Burns 49-3309.
(6) Acts 1933; Burns 36-1101, 36-1102.
(7) Acts 1933; Burns 36-1110.
(8) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1857; Burns 49-3317.
(9) 1 Rev. Stat. 1852; Acts 1875; Burns 49-3311.

Surveys and Reports

240. RECORD OF FIELD NOTES, 1853-96. 3 vols. (1-3). Record of original surveys, showing date, maps, and diagramd of survey. Arr. alph. by names of surveyors. Hdw. 500 pp. 18 x 13 x 3. Recr. off.

241. CURRENT CLAIMS RECEIPTS, 1933--. 12 file boxes. Recoipts for current claims, showing date, receipt and claim numbers, name of claimant, amount, and purpose. Arr. chron. 6 file boxes, 12 x 5 x 4; 6 file boxes, 9 x 5 x 4. Recr. Sur. off.

Maps

242. GRAVEL ROAD CONSTRUCTION, 1920. 20 blueprints. Physical map including specifications for gravel road construction, showing date; name, location, and description of road; kind of material; and cost. Blueprint. Scale not given. 16 x 10. Recr. Sur. off.

XXV. HIGHWAY SUPERVISOR

The administrative system of building and maintaining county highways has undergone several changes, since this improvement has become an increasingly important part of civic life.

In 1879 the legislature constituted the board of commissioners a board of turnpike directors for the management and control of county highways. (1)

By an act of 1913, this board was abolished, and the highways were placed in charge of a superintendent of highways, who was appointed by the county commissioners. (2)

This office was abolished by the legislature in 1933 (3) and the duties of the superintendent of highways were transferred to the surveyor; (4) unless the board of commissioners should appoint a highway supervisor to perform the duties heretofore performed by the superintendent of highways. The highway supervisor serves at the will of the commissioners. The board of commissioners may appoint the duly elected surveyor or a person other than the surveyor to be highway supervisor. (5)

The board of commissioners of Ripley County has appointed the surveyor to serve as highway supervisor.

The highway supervisor has general charge of the repair and maintenance of county highways, bridges, and culverts; has police power in the control of the highways of the county; and may fix the limit of loads for any highway, bridge, or culvert. (6) He investigates and determines the method of maintenance best adopted to

the various highways of the county under his supervision, establishes standards for the maintenance of highways, bridges, and culverts, and makes an annual budget estimate of the cost of repair and maintenance of highways, bridges, and culverts, which must be filed in the auditor's office for the use of the board of commissioners. (7) He is required to meet with the board of commissioners and confer with them on matters pertaining to his duties (8) and also must attend all sessions of the annual road school at Purdue University. (9)

All the records are located in the courthouse.

---

(1) Acts 1879, ch. 115, sec. 1.
(2) Acts 1913, ch. 330, sec. 1.
(3) Acts 1933; Burns 36-1113.
(4) Acts 1933; Burns 36-1101.
(5) Acts 1933; Burns 36-1110.
(6) Acts 1933; Burns 36-1101, 36-1102, 36-1110.
(7) Acts 1933; Burns 36-1103, 36-1110.
(8) Acts 1933; Burns 36-1104, 36-1110.
(9) Acts 1933; Burns 36-1110.

243. RECORD, 1914-32. 5 vols. (1-5).

Record of expenditures for repairs to roads, showing date, district number, names of employees and vendor, nature of material and labor, and cost. Arr. chron. Hdw. 295 pp. 17 x 16 x 1½. Sur. off.

244. HIGHWAY EXPENSE BILL ALLOWED, 1923-33. 5 vols.

Record of invoices for material purchases, showing date, name of vendor, quantity, unit price, and total. Arr. chron. Hdw. 325 pp. 18 x 14 x 2. Bsmt. stg. rm.

245. MONTHLY EXPENSE ACCOUNT, 1925-33. 4 vols. (1-4). Record of expenditures for payrolls and supplies, showing date, road and district number, names of employees and vendor, nature of material and supplies, unit price, and total. Arr. by road and district nos. Hdw. 225 pp. 14 x 10 x 1. Bsmt. stg. rm.

246. YEARLY CASH BALANCE, 1929-32. 1 vol. Record of annual appropriations and disbursements, showing date, and amounts of appropriation, expenditures, and fund balance. Arr. chron. Hdw. 200 pp. 12 x 10 x 1½. Sur. off.

XXVI. AGRICULTURAL AGENT

The office of agricultural agent was created by the legislature in 1913. This act provided for appointment of a county (agricultural) agent upon petition to the county board of education by the residents of the county. The appointment was made annually--reappointment might be for a term of two years--by Purdue University, subject to the approval of both the state and the county board of education, and the agent's salary was paid in part by the state. (1) The inception date of this office in Ripley County is 1918.

By legislative enactment in 1937 the office of agricultural agent was created for every Indiana county. The agricultural agent is appointed by the director of agricultural extension service of Purdue University, subject to the approval of a state board, entitled county agricultural agent board. The qualifications of the agricultural agent are prescribed by the board. (2)

The county council is required to appropriate not less than one thousand dollars annually to be used in paying office help, expenses of the agent, mileage, rent, or other incidentals. The salary of the agricultural agent is paid by the state through Purdue University. (3)

The duties of the agricultural agent, under the supervision of Purdue University, are: To cooperate with farmers' institutes, farmers' clubs, and other rural and civic organizations: to conduct practical farm demonstrations, boys' and girls' clubs and contest work, and other movements for the advancement of agricultural and county life; to give advice to farmers on practical farm problems;

and to aid the superintendent of schools and the teachers of the county in giving practical education in agriculture and domestic science. (4)

All the records are located in the agricultural agent's office, in the courthouse.

---

(1) Acts 1913, 1923, 1927; Burns 28-4911.
(2) Acts 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 28-4911.
(3) Ibid.
(4) Ibid.

Reports

247. ADMINISTRATION, 1936--. 1 file box.
Reports of administration and performance of county agents, showing date, names on mailing list, number of pamphlets mailed and demonstrations made, attendance, and results. Arr. chron. 30 x 16 x 12.

248. CO-OPERATING AGENCIES, 1935--. 1 file box.
Listing of co-operating agencies, showing date, and name and address of agency. Arr. chron. 30 x 16 x 12.

249. AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC FARM RECORD, 1936--. 1 file box.
Reports of farm marketing, showing date, names of Federal Farm Board members, kind of products, price, quantity sold, and profit. Arr. chron. 30 x 16 x 12.

250. AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION METHODS, 1935--. 1 file box.
Reports of agricultural extension methods, showing date, nature of research information received, and publicity given. Arr. chron. 30 x 16 x 12.

and to aid the superintendent of schools and the teachers of the county in giving practical education in agriculture and domestic science. (4)

All the records are located in the agricultural agent's office, in the courthouse.

---

(1) Acts 1913, 1923, 1927; Burns 28-4911.
(2) Acts 1937; Burns, 1937 suppl., 28-4911.
(3) Ibid.
(4) Ibid.

Reports

247. ADMINISTRATION, 1936--. 1 file box.
Reports of administration and performance of county agents, showing date, names on mailing list, number of pamphlets mailed and demonstrations made, attendance, and results. Arr. chron. 30 x 16 x 12.

248. CO-OPERATING AGENCIES, 1935--. 1 file box.
Listing of co-operating agencies, showing date, and name and address of agency. Arr. chron. 30 x 16 x 12.

249. AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC FARM RECORD, 1936--. 1 file box.
Reports of farm marketing, showing date, names of Federal Farm Board members, kind of products, price, quantity sold, and profit. Arr. chron. 30 x 16 x 12.

250. AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION METHODS, 1935--. 1 file box.
Reports of agricultural extension methods, showing date, nature of research information received, and publicity given. Arr. chron. 30 x 16 x 12.

251. AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING REPORT, 1936--. 1 file box.
Report of building construction, showing date; name of engineer; and cost, location, and description of project. Arr. chron. 30 x 16 x 12.

252. SOILS, 1936--. 1 file box.
Reports of soil tested, showing date, name of farm, location and description, kind of soil and fertilizer used, and results. Arr. chron. 30 x 16 x 12.

253. FARM CROPS, 1936--. 1 file box.
Report of test on varieties of seeds, showing date, name of farm, acreage tested, kind of seed used, and result. Arr. chron. 30 x 16 x 12.

254. HORTICULTURE, 1936--. 1 file box.
Report on orchard care and spray tests; showing date; name, location, and description of farm; production; nature of cultivation; and instruction for exterminating insects. Arr. chron. 30 x 16 x 12.

255. FORESTRY, 1936--. 1 file box.
Report on forestry, showing date, kind of timber, acreage, name of owner, location and description of land, number of trees per acre, and institutions for planting, trimming, and general care. Arr. chron. 30 x 16 x 12.

256. WEEDS, 1936--. 1 file box.
Reports on weeds extermination, showing date, names of farm and weed, location and description, nature of test, and extermination. Arr. chron. 30 x 16 x 12.

257. SHEEP, 1936--. 1 file box.

Report on breeding, feeding, and profits in sheep raising; showing date; name of owner; kind of breed, feeding, and wool production; number of lambs raised; and profits. Arr. chron. 30 x 16 x 12.

258. ENTOMOLOGY, 1936--. 1 file box.

Report on care of bees and production of honey, showing date, kind of bee, injurious insects, diseases, and treatment. Arr. chron. 30 x 16 x 12.

259. RODENTS, 1936--. 1 file box.

Report on crop destroying rodents and birds, showing date, name of rodent and bird, habits, nature of damage, and methods of extermination. arr. chron. 30 x 16 x 12.

260. SHOWS EXHIBIT, 1936--. 1 file box.

Listings of fair exhibits, showing date, whether county or state, names of animal or item, description, and kind of prize or award. Arr. chron. 30 x 16 x 12.

261. ANNUAL NARRATIVE RECORD, 1921--. 12 vols.

Record of reports to Purdue University Agricultural Extension Service, showing date; number of projects, demonstrations, and farm visits; attendance; and results accomplished. Arr. chron. Hdw. 100 pp. 11 x 10 x $\frac{1}{2}$.

262. COUNTY AGENT'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1936--. 1 file box.

Annual reports of county agent, showing date, number of projects, amount of monthly budget, contracts, paid and unpaid expenditures, purpose, and name of recipient. Arr. chron. 30 x 16 x 12.

263. 4-H CLUB BOOK, 1932--. 1 vol.

Record of boys belonging to 4-H Clubs, showing date of enrollment; name, age, activities, grade, and eligibility of boy; and prize given. Indexed alph. by names of members. Hdw. 100 pp. 12 x 8 x 1.

264. 4-H CLUB WORK, 1936--. 1 file box.

Report of 4-H Club work, showing date, names of club and member, location, enrollment, project leadership, membership round up, and instruction given. Arr. chron. 30 x 16 x 12.

1465